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**Woods wins
duel at Doral,
regains No. 1**

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Tiger Woods



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better training, gear**

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NC State's Cedric

Simmons, left, and Wake Forest's Eric Williams

**Top four teams
get Madness
going early**

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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

50¢

Horror on Airport Road

**Shooting of journalist,
agent took place on feared
path out of Baghdad**

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — The route runs through a broad and flat landscape, bare but for a few date palms rising tall and dignified and the occasional small bush. Except for the litter of plastic bottles and bags, the scene is almost pastoral, peaceful.

It hardly seems the place where people could hide and detonate bombs or jump out and ambush vehicles. But this is Baghdad's Airport Road, six miles paved with dread.

It was on this road that U.S. soldiers opened fire Friday night on the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence agent who had negotiated her release from Sunni insurgents.

SEE ROAD ON PAGE 8



AP

U.S. servicemembers in military vehicles man a checkpoint Saturday on Airport Road, the route leading to Baghdad International Airport. American troops on Friday fired on the car rushing Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after a month in captivity. Sgrena was wounded and Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence officer who helped negotiate her release, was killed.



Giuliana Sgrena



Nicola Calipari

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Scene on Sunday

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Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Judge's family murders: The parents of white supremacist Matthew Hale, looking forward to visiting their imprisoned son this week, said they don't believe that any member of Hale's group is capable of murdering a federal judge's husband and mother.

In separate telephone interviews, Evelyn Hutcheson and Russell Hale said Sunday they are worried authorities will cancel their visits to their son, who is awaiting sentencing next month for soliciting an FBI informant to kill Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz in Chicago.

Russell Hale said two FBI agents questioned him Friday, asking if he had any idea who might have killed Judge Lefkowitz's husband — attorney Michael Lefkowitz, 64 — and mother, Donna Humphrey, 89, who had lived in Denver. Matthew Hale has denied any involvement in the slayings.

World

Iran nuclear program: Iran confirmed on Monday that its Natanz uranium enrichment plant in central Iran is working to protect its nuclear equipment from any possible airstrikes, but it insisted that was not a sign the program aims to produce weapons. U.S. officials have said building nuclear facilities underground is inconsistent with Iran's claims that its nuclear intentions are peaceful.

Rabin assassin's request: The Israeli Supreme Court on Monday rejected a request by Yitzhak Rabin's assassin to have conjugal visits with the woman he says he married by proxy. Yigal Amir, who is serving a life term for the Nov. 4, 1995, killing of Rabin, had sought permission to have conjugal visits with Larissa Trimbolter.

The Supreme Court said that Amir has not abandoned his violent aims and is a role model for extremists. It also said it would be difficult to supervise such visits.

Congo violence: Militiamen and renegade soldiers have raped and beaten tens of thousands of women and young girls in eastern Congo, and nearly all the crimes have gone unpunished by the country's broken judicial system, an international human rights group said Monday.

Hundreds of new rapes are reported every week, but only 10 soldiers and militants have been convicted of rape in relatively lawless eastern Congo since the end of the country's devastating war in 2002, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report.

Pope's recovery: Pope John Paul II is likely to be released from the hospital time for Holy Week services that begin with Palm Sunday on March 20 and culminate with Easter, the Vatican said Monday.

The pope has suffered no complications since a Feb. 24 surgery to insert a tube in his windpipe and ease his second breathing crisis in a month, said papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls. He said doctors cautioned John Paul not to use his voice too much to ensure a complete recovery.

Balkan war crimes charges: The former chief of staff of Yugoslavia's army flew to the Netherlands on Monday to surrender to



Pakistan rape verdict protest: Pakistani women stage a rally Monday to support a rape victim in Multan, Pakistan. More than 3,000 women rallied in this eastern Pakistani city, demanding justice and protection for Mukhtar Mai, a 33-year-old teacher, whose alleged rapists were released by a court last week. Mai — who attended the rally — was allegedly gang raped in June 2002 by men from Mastoi clan, considered to be socially higher than her Gujar tribe in Meerwala. A court sentenced six men to death for Mai's rape. But an appeals court in Multan last Thursday overturned the conviction of five of the men, citing lack of evidence, and reduced the other man's sentence to life in prison. The demonstration ended peacefully.

a U.N. war crimes tribunal there.

Gen. Momcil Perisic, the head of the Yugoslav army during the Balkan wars of the 1990s, was indicted last week by The Hague tribunal for his alleged role in atrocities committed by troops in Croatia and Bosnia.

West Bank violence: Palestinian militants wounded two Israeli border policemen in a shooting attack on a military post near a West Bank shrine Monday, the latest attempt to disrupt a delicate cease-fire.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reacting to the attack, said Jews would continue to live and pray in Hebron, endorsing the settler presence in the tense city.

N. Korea nuke talks: The top U.S. negotiator for the North Korea nuclear dispute will visit Washington and Tokyo this week to seek ways to lure Pyongyang back to the negotiating table, the U.S. Embassy said Monday.

Christopher Hill will meet Kenichiro Sasae, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau, on Thursday, the embassy said.

Bobby Fischer saga: Chess legend Bobby Fischer has been granted an Icelandic passport and the right to reside there but has been refused permission to leave the detention center in Japan where he is being held pending deportation to the United States, his lawyers and supporters said Monday.

Fischer, who turns 62 on Wednesday, has been held by Japanese immigration authorities since being arrested in Tokyo in July while trying to board a plane to the Philippines, allegedly using an invalid U.S. passport.

Washington has sought Fischer, a chess champion, on charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslav

via by playing chess there in 1992. **Taiwanese president shooting:** Investigators on Monday said the "most likely suspect" in the election-eye shooting that grazed the Taiwanese president's stomach was an unemployed man in his 50s who was depressed about the economy and committed suicide shortly after the attack.

Monday's announcement did little to satisfy some of the skeptics who believe the March 19, 2004, shooting was a conspiracy rigged by the president to gain sympathy and boost his chances of re-election.

Canada missile defense: Prime Minister Paul Martin had initially indicated that Canada would participate in the U.S. missile defense program, but later reversed his position, the U.S. ambassador said during an interview early Sunday.

Ambassador Paul Cellucci said Martin had sent strong signals that Canada would take part in the program designed to protect North America from incoming missiles.

Martin announced in late February that Canada would not participate in the contentious missile defense program, which a majority of Canadians oppose, polls say.

Business

Justice Department v. Microsoft: The Justice Department, which challenged Microsoft Corp. in courtrooms for nearly a decade over antitrust violations, will pay more than \$2 million each year to buy business software from Corel Corp., a leading Microsoft rival.

The new purchase agreement, announced Monday, makes the latest version of Corel's WordPerfect Office software available to more than 50,000 lawyers and other Justice employees.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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U.S. European Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle, center, talks with Staff Sgt. Phillip Hoover of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, during a patrol of the Serbian town of Pasjan, Kosovo, on Saturday. Bartelle also visited troops at Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith over the weekend.

PHOTOS BY BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

EUCOM's command sergeant major pledges better training, equipment

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

The highest-ranking enlisted soldier in Europe said this week that he is intent on ensuring troops under his care receive the best training and equipment the military can provide over the next several years.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle, the U.S. European Command's top liaison to enlisted troops in the theater, said military families' welfare and concerns also will be foremost on his mind during his three-year tenure.

A 26-year soldier with tours in Hawaii, South Korea, Germany and Belgium, Bartelle has worked his way up through "every noncommissioned officer leadership position from team leader to command sergeant," according to his EUCOM biography.

His previous duty was as the Army's command sergeant major at NATO, he said.

On his first official appearance as the command sergeant major since taking the office Feb. 8, Bartelle visited troops last weekend at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, where he said he was still adjusting to being treated more like brass than the enlisted soldier of his youth. "It still has an impact on me," he said.

"The sphere of influence I have and how people react when they find out who I am and what I do."

Despite his lofty position, Bartelle made an effort to personally thank as many troops as he could for serving on the Kosovo tour.

Asked whether he had any specific issues he wanted to address in his new role, the soft-spoken Bartelle said it was too soon for him to identify the type of systematic problems he may eventually deal with at the EUCOM level.

His first priority is to come up to speed on his role in the strategic planning of the military in the European command, he said.

Snow delays Bartelle's departure

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — The new command sergeant major for the U.S. European Command received a longer-than-expected tour of the main American facility in Kosovo over the weekend.

Problems with the C-12 Huron passenger plane that brought him and nearly a foot of fresh snow combined to turn his overnight trip into a stay of almost three full days at Camp Bondsteel.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle was on hand at the base to attend a transfer of authority ceremony and meet troops in his first trip abroad as EUCOM's senior enlisted adviser.

Bartelle said he luckily had a pretty empty schedule for Monday, when he was supposed to receive some orientation around his new office in Stuttgart, Germany, but was eager to get back for a Tuesday teleconference about military quality of life issues.

Bartelle's plane broke down on the flight line in Pristina, Kosovo, on Sunday, when he was originally supposed to depart, and replacement parts were delayed from reaching the airfield by the deepening snow.

On Monday afternoon, he was still stranded at the base. The delay left Bartelle wading through a long list of e-mails and taking care of administrative duties, he said, but didn't affect his work too much. "Patience is a virtue," he said.

— Ben Murray

"The amount of information I'm receiving is wonderful to absorb," he said.

About the one issue sure to generate waves of concern among military members during his tenure — the transformation and consolidation of the U.S. military in Europe — Bartelle said the best thing he can do until he knows more about the



Pfc. James Pope and a fellow soldier from the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment, stationed at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, practice riot drills in the swirling snowstorm that grounded planes, buried roads and delayed base activities Sunday, but it wasn't enough to let the soldiers off the hook to stay warm and dry indoors.

shape of the future force will be to disseminate information as fast and accurately as he can.

"The goal will be to ensure that everyone has a working knowledge of what's happening," he said.

E-mail Ben Murray at:
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Navy testing camouflage uniforms in the States

The Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Maine — Sailors in camouflage?

In a dramatic departure from tradition, about 60 sailors stationed at the Naval Air Station in Brunswick are part of a worldwide test of new unisex camouflage working uniforms for enlisted personnel.

"We are the only branch of the military that has more than one working uniform," said Master Chief Aaron Shipley.

"The Navy is trying to make life easier for all of our sailors ... the whole intent here is to reduce our sea bag."

The Marine Corps and Army have long worn forest green and desert tan camouflage uniforms.

Base spokesman John W. James says the distinctive blue, gray and black patterns of the new Navy uniform will prove better confusion.

More than 1,700 sailors across the globe received the uniforms this year, including sailors at Rota, Spain, and Naples, Italy.

Each sailor also received a user's guide that explains how to care for their clothing.

The sailors must keep a log that asks how often they launder the clothing. At the end of the test period, Brunswick's sailors will be asked to critique the camouflage shirt and trousers, new belts, headwear, polyester knit T-shirts and mock turtle-necks, boots, a waterproof parka and a fleece jacket.

If the Navy's Uniform Board determines that the uniforms are durable and likeable, Navy personnel could begin wearing the camouflage soon.

The new uniforms will not replace traditional dress white or blue uniforms or its flight suits, but could reduce the number of garments in a sailor's wardrobe.

The early reviews of the new uniforms have been mostly positive, with some complaints related mostly to accessories such as boots and belts.

"I'm a big fan of the uniform," said Navy veteran Vince Holum, who likes to wear the fleece jacket under the parka. "It is by far the warmest uniform I have ever tried on."

Holum, a senior chief, has been in the Navy for 22 years, said he appreciates more that sailors have been allowed to provide input.

Iraq war protesters charged

DUBLIN, Ireland — Five Iraq war protesters charged with criminally damaging a U.S. Navy transport aircraft pleaded not guilty Monday in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

The five — Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran and Kieran O'Reilly — were arrested in February 2003 inside or near a hangar housing the aircraft, which had been attacked a few days earlier by a lone ax-wielding protester.

The protesters' two alleged incursions into Shannon Airport highlighted grass roots Irish opposition to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and embarrassed the Irish government, which deployed a battalion of troops around the airport's perimeter to prevent further incursions. Ireland, an officially neutral nation, has permitted the U.S. military to use Shannon in County Clare, southwest Ireland, for the past three years as a refueling point for its operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

From The Associated Press

AF lifts Boeing ban on satellite launch bids

BY MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force on Friday lifted a 20-month ban prohibiting Boeing Co. from bidding on satellite launch contracts, saying the company had corrected problems that led to accusations that it stole information from a competitor in 1998.

The Chicago-based aerospace giant was suspended in 2003 and stripped of some \$1 billion in launch contracts after it was found in possession of thousands of sensitive documents belonging to rival Lockheed Martin.

Acting Air Force Secretary Peter Teets said Boeing will reimburse the military \$1.9 million for the cost of investigating the allegations. Boeing also will pay for a special compliance officer, reporting to the Air Force, who will monitor the company's business ethics for the next three years.

"This has been the longest suspension of a major defense contractor, and it demonstrates how seriously we take the issue of procurement integrity," Teets said. "Over the past 20 months, Boeing has taken serious corrective actions."

In July 2003, the Air Force banned Boeing from satellite

launches after concluding that Boeing committed "serious and substantial violations of federal law" by stealing extensive information from Lockheed during competition for a \$1.9 billion satellite launching contract in 1998. The Air Force also took away a series of launches, worth about \$1 billion in revenue, that were to use Boeing rockets, and gave them to Lockheed.

Both companies participate in the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, the military's main system for getting satellites into space.

Under the interim agreement announced Friday, Boeing will be allowed to compete next year when the Air Force allows a competition for a new round of launches.

The Air Force initially awarded Boeing and Lockheed Martin contracts worth nearly \$2 billion over the course of 28 missions from 2002 through 2008. Boeing received the majority of the contracts, many of which were transferred to Lockheed Martin after Boeing was suspended.

Three Boeing employees were charged in connection with the alleged thefts.

"We have worked hard over the past 20 months to restore the trust

Latest F-15 jet passes test flights

BY JIM SUHR
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Boeing Co.'s newest fighter jet has made a successful maiden flight, passing all tests ahead of a ceremonial rollout later this month, the aerospace company's defense unit said.

Chicago-based Boeing has a \$3.6 billion contract with South Korea to provide 40 of the F-15K Strike Eagles from next year through August 2008. The new planes will join the fleet of F-16 jets that now form the backbone of the South Korean air force.

A derivative of the F-15E used by the U.S. Air Force, the F-15K can carry more than 23,000 pounds of cargo, reach Mach 2.5 — two and a half times the speed of sound — and use the latest military technologies, Boeing said.

On Thursday, Boeing's chief F-15 test pilot and

chief weapons systems officer put the jet through its paces, soaring to an altitude of about 50,000 feet, surpassing Mach 2 and accomplishing engine shutdowns and restarts during the four-hour flight.

Coming four days ahead of schedule, "it was a good mission — as good as you can do on your first time out," said Bill Burkhardt, a spokesman for Boeing Air Force Systems. "The test pilot was really happy with it."

A condition of the deal with South Korea was that the jet components would be made in that country but the final assembly of the jets would take place in the United States.

Shares of Boeing rose \$2.12, or 3.8 percent, to close at \$57.42 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, climbing to the highest level since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks sent the plane manufacturer's commercial airline customers into a deep slump.

and confidence of our customer, and we are grateful that we have reached this point," said Boeing spokesman Doug Kennett.

A Lockheed spokesman declined to comment, citing ongoing litigation.

In addition to the administrative sanctions Boeing has faced, the company is facing separate civil and criminal investigations as a result of acquiring the Lock-

heed papers.

The Air Force has estimated the total cost of shifting launches to Lockheed, building a new launch pad on the West Coast and covering other financial fallout from Boeing's document-gathering has amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Boeing also faces ongoing questions about its relationship with a former top Air Force procurement

official, who has admitted giving the company special treatment.

Darren Druyen, who later took a job at Boeing, is now serving nine months in prison for violating federal conflict-of-interest laws.

The Government Accountability Office said in separate reports last month that the Air Force improperly favored Boeing in at least two contracts worth a total of \$6.5 billion.

Darmstadt duty's over



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Ryan Bever, left, and soldiers of the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion of the 129th Military Police, stand in formation during a farewell ceremony Monday in Darmstadt, Germany. The MPs have been in charge of all community law enforcement operations in Darmstadt since December 2003, according to 233rd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office in Darmstadt. Bever was credited with saving another soldier's life last year. Prior to deploying to Germany, the MPs served as field artillery soldiers in the Missouri Army National Guard.

Project aims to save whales from Navy sonar

BY CATHERINE CLABBY
Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer

BEAUFORT, N.C. — After more than 30 whales died during a mass beaching in North Carolina in January, sonar from U.S. Navy ships surfaced as a possible cause. Now scientists are trying to steer Navy vessels clear of such tragedies.

Two Duke University researchers are devising a system intended to predict where and when whales, dolphins and other animals swim off U.S. shores. Navy planners could use it to put distance between some harmful operations and vulnerable animals.

"There's a lot of promise to this approach," said Mark Hastings, a program officer for marine mammal science and technology with the Office of Naval Research. "It's the only way we can think of that would provide us with predictive capabilities."

Navy vessels, like all ships, pose big dangers to sea mammals, whether they be abundant bottlenose dolphins or endangered right whales. Collisions occur. Explosives and polluting discharges make trouble. And evidence is mounting that sonar, which Navy vessels use to detect underwater threats and navigate, may cause some whales to beach themselves, often with fatal results.

Aboard research vessels and in laboratories, scientists have spent decades collecting data on many of the same sea creatures the Navy sometimes

harms. They are gaining insights to the migration routes and rituals of many species. They know how water temperature, nutrition and the routes of the shifting Gulf Stream, even the shape of the sea floor can influence where animals are likely to go.

Using computer power and mathematics formulas, Duke biologist Andy Read and seascape ecologist Pat Halpin want to combine the best of what's known about the animals to predict where they will be when. Neither expects perfect forecasts, but they believe they can help the Navy better understand what's occupying waters stretching from Maine to Mexico.

The Federal Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program funds this research project, along with another project focused on waters off the West Coast, to help the Navy comply with laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Hastings said. That law, with some exceptions, prohibits people from harassing, hunting or killing marine mammals.

The East Coast project will cost \$969,000, spent over at least three years. When the project was announced in 2002, it declared its "first priority" as finding a way to deal with risks to whales posed by sonar. Sound waves from sonar are suspected of causing problems for whales, perhaps damaging their hearing somehow or causing them to rise to the surface too quickly and get the bends.

U.S.-led forces bust fishing boat carrying \$30M in hashish

The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S.-led naval forces raided a fishing boat in the northern Arabian Sea carrying 2.6 tons of hashish valued at an estimated \$30 million, the U.S. military said Monday.

Sunday's seizure of the drugs and vessel, a traditional dhows started tracking the ship Saturday and contacted American guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill which sent an SH-60B heli-

"Drugs are often very directly related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhows."

German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops
multinational task force commander

British frigate HMS Grafton started tracking the ship Saturday and contacted American guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill which sent an SH-60B heli-

copter to intercept the vessel. The exact location of the seizure was unclear, as was the nationality of the boat and crew. It was not known how many people

were detained from the dhow, on which was found 128 sealed packages containing a total of 2.6 million tons of hashish.

"Drugs are often very directly

related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhows," said German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops, commander of the multinational task force.

USS Bunker Hill deployed Dec. 6 from its San Diego home port and is part of Commander, Task Force 150 that oversees security operations around the Horn of Africa, the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

White House rejects claim that U.S. forces targeted journalist

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday said it was "absurd" for a former hostage in Iraq to charge that U.S. military forces may have deliberately targeted her car as she was being rushed to freedom.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was traveling on one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq, to the Baghdad airport, when it was fired upon. An Italian intelligence officer in the car was shot and killed.

Responding to Sgrena's statement that the car may have been deliberately targeted, McClellan



Sgrena

said. "It's absurd to make any such suggestion, that our men and women in uniform would deliberately target innocent civilians."

"That's just absurd," McClellan repeated.

He said the airport road "has been a place where suicide car bombers have launched attacks. It's been a place where regime elements have fired upon coalition forces. It is a dangerous road and it is a combat zone that our coalition forces are in."

Often, they have to make split-second decisions to protect their own security.

"And we regret this incident," McClellan said. "We are going to fully investigate what exactly occurred."

President Bush called Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Friday to apologize and to promise a full investigation. Sgrena has said it was possible her car was targeted deliberately because the United States opposes Italy's policy of negotiating with kidnappers.



An injured man is carried into a hospital on Monday after insurgents launched a series of attacks in and around the city of Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. Those attacks, as well as a car bomb in Balad, left 31 people dead and dozens more wounded.

Funeral held for Italian agent, Page 13

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,507 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,142 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 12 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths: Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,033 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Juan M. Solano, 32, Dallas, killed Friday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Mosul; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

British rule out sabotage in Jan. 30 plane crash

LONDON — The likelihood that hostile fire downed a British transport plane on Jan. 30 in Iraq increased Monday when military officials ruled out sabotage and engine failure in the crash that killed 10 people.

An interim report by the Royal Air Force board of inquiry excluded a range of possible explanations, including lightning, collision with another aircraft or cargo exploding in the crash of the Hercules C-130 transport north of Baghdad about a half-hour after polls closed in Iraq's landmark elections.

But the panel did not rule out the possibility that the Hercules, which was on an administrative flight between Baghdad and a U.S. air base at Balad, may have been shot down by guerrillas with a surface-to-air missile.

"There is a great deal of detailed evidence that has yet to be analyzed and a number of lines of inquiry that need further investigation," said a statement from the Ministry of Defense, adding that the inquiry "is not yet in a position to establish the cause of the crash."

On Feb. 9, Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, said he believed the British aircraft was downed by hostile action rather than by a mechanical problem. He had also suggested the possibility of sabotage.

From The Associated Press

31 Iraqis killed in series of attacks by insurgents

By TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Guerrillas launched a series of attacks in Iraq on Monday that left 31 people dead and dozens wounded as the country took its first major step toward forming a government without its most crucial task will be dealing with the insurgency.

Bulgaria said one of its soldiers killed in Iraq on Friday was likely hit by friendly fire from coalition troops. The shooting came on the same day as U.S. troops fired on a car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing an Italian intelligence officer who negotiated her release from insurgents.

Al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibility in an Internet statement for much of the bloodshed — violence in and around Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where 15 people died. Another car bomb killed 12 people in Balad, southeast of Baquba.

The Baquba assaults included a car bomb, three roadside bombs and small arms attacks three checkpoints, one of them just south of Baquba in Muradiyah, said police Col. Mudhafar al-Juboori. U.S. Maj. Ed House said a suicide car bombing outside a police station there killed nine people and wounded 17. The dead included the bomber, two police, three soldiers and three civilians.

In another attack near the city, a group of about 20 insurgents in five vehicles attacked an army checkpoint with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, killing five Iraqi soldiers. The troops fought back, killing one of the attackers. Nine people were wounded, House said.

Militants also fired a mortar near the blue-domed governor's office, but no one was hurt, said a spokesman for the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division, Maj. Richard Goldenberg.

Another car bomb exploded outside the home of Iraqi army Lt. Col. Muhammad Abdul Mufateh in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing 12 people and injuring 21 others, said the city's police chief, Ayad Ahmed. Hospital officials said most of the ca-

sualties were bystanders. Iraqi security forces are frequently targeted by insurgents.

In Baghdad, gunmen killed two police and wounded a third in a drive-by shooting in the eastern slum of Sadr City, said Dr. Abdul Jabbar Solan, director of a hospital where the casualties were brought.

Two civilians were killed when a roadside bomb targeting a joint U.S.-Iraqi military convoy exploded in the west Baghdad neighborhood of Amiriyah. The blast missed the convoy, damaging two passing cars and wounding four people, including two girls, said 1st Lt. Ali Hussein Hamdani. Another roadside bomb exploded in a southeastern Baghdad suburb, wounding several people on a bus.

Amid the wave of violence, Dutch troops ended their mission in the southern city of Samawa and turned command of the area to the British, along with responsibility for 550 Japanese soldiers. The Dutch government last year decided to pull out its final 350 troops, despite requests from Britain and the United States.

Meanwhile, saboteurs blasted a pipeline near Samarra, 60 miles northwest of the capital, that carries oil to a Baghdad refinery, said police Maj. Mohsin Mahmoud.

A Polish soldier was wounded in the hand Monday when a bomb blew up next to his convoy north of Hilla in central Iraq, said Lt. Col. Zbigniew Staszko, spokesman for the Polish military.

The death Friday of Bulgarian Pvt. Gardi Gardev was likely caused by friendly fire from troops of the U.S.-led coalition, according to Bulgarian Defense Minister Nikolai Svinarov in Sofia.

Svinarov said Gardev was in a Bulgarian patrol that was approached by a civilian Iraqi car. The vehicle did not stop after the patrol gave a signal, and the servicemen fired warning shots in the air from the north. Shortly after that, the patrol came under "massive fire from the west," where a U.S. army communications site was located about 150 yards away, Svinarov said.

A U.S. military spokesman, Tech. Sgt. Patrick Murphy, said the commanding general in the region had appointed a commission to investigate.

Security missions take GIs out into the night

Darkness protects Forward Operating Base Gabe squads as they patrol Baqouba, Iraq

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

The patrol rolled out of base late Sunday night and onto the dark streets of Baqouba. Its mission: to check security fences that were installed at a pair of bridges.

"To keep people from getting in under the bridge, planting [explosives] and blowing it up," said Staff Sgt. Douglas Lesh, one of the vehicle commanders.

Another goal was to confront and possibly detain anyone violating the curfew, which is in effect from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m.

"If we see people we would normally detain them and ask some questions," said Staff Sgt. Hugh Griffin of Bainbridge, Ga. The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, based at Forward Operating Base Gabe on the eastern edge of Baqouba, conduct patrols such as this almost every night in this city of 300,000 about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad.

They are part of Task Force Liberty, a conglomerate of 20,000 soldiers stationed throughout north-central Iraq whose goal is to help build a functioning democracy in the wake of the U.S.-led toppling of Saddam Hussein in the spring of 2003.

Sunday night's patrol included three armored Humvees and two Bradley fighting vehicles. It traveled with lights off to make it more difficult for insurgents to attack the patrol.

The five vehicles and 20-plus soldiers had far too much firepower for an average band of insurgents to face using conventional means, but insurgents in Iraq

have been using unconventional, hit-and-run tactics such as roadside bombs.

On this night, the moon was obscured by clouds, which made the streets darker and made it a little more difficult for the soldiers to see.

"I hate this road," Griffin said as he steered his Humvee onto a bumpy, pitch black stretch near the Diyala River, which runs through Baqouba.

At one point the patrol using its heat-sensing equipment detected a "hot spot" in a wooded area. It could have been a person, animal or weapons cache, the soldiers said.

The hot spot could also have been a video camera, they said, used by insurgents-for-hire to videotape their attacks with improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, in order to collect a bounty.

But after dismounting and wading into the woods to investigate, the soldiers found the smoldering embers of a fire that someone might have been using to keep warm in the chilly night air.

It turned out that one of the two bridges that were inspected had slingshot fencing, that could be infiltrated by someone wanting to plant a bomb. Lesh said it would be reported up the chain of command to be fixed.

To finish their patrol, the soldiers drove down what they call Canal Street back to FOB Gabe, re-entering the base at 12:35 a.m., one hour after they had left it.

The battalion sends out patrols most nights, said 1st Lt. Patrick Heim of Phenix City, Ala., a platoon leader. Sometimes their objective is to search for a per-



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Gabe check a bridge in Baqouba on Sunday night for security risks.

son or inspect a certain site in Baqouba, a city with a mixture of Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish residents.

On other nights, though, the patrols are simply looking for suspicious activity. They try to avoid sitting in one place for

very long.

"During any extended period, the enemy could locate us and drop mortars," Heim said. "But overall, we've had very little direct contact."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.starsandstripes.osd.mil

General: Some Taliban fighters switching sides

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thirty midlevel Taliban have turned themselves in to coalition forces this year, a top U.S. commander said Monday, predicting more will follow when the Afghan government announces a reconciliation program for followers of the hardline militia.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Afghanistan, did not identify the insurgents and said the coalition had no specific information on the whereabouts of top-level Taliban, including the supreme leader of the ousted Islamist regime, Mullah Omar.

The 30 Taliban had "essentially turned themselves in" at coalition bases in the eastern province of Khost and the southern province of Kandahar during the past two months and had been handed over to Afghan authorities for reintegration into society.

None had been detained, and one was now serving as a policeman, Olson said.

Olson was addressing a news conference at the end of his one-year term as chief of operations for the 17,000 U.S. forces

hunting Taliban and al-Qaida militants in Afghanistan.

Purported Taliban officials have rebuffed the U.S.-backed amnesty program — which is not open to the top echelon of the militia — and vowed to go on the offensive as the weather improves after a particularly harsh winter.

Olson said coalition forces had targeted cells of mid- and low-level Taliban insurgents. Militant attacks against them had declined over the past year, from 10-15 per week in the spring 2004, to around five attacks weekly now — although he said insurgents could step up activity in the coming spring.

According to news reports over the weekend, three Taliban leaders who were arrested in Pakistan in recent months were handed over to U.S. officials last week.

Olson confirmed that three Taliban leaders were "handed over in Pakistan." He said the three were not under coalition custody and that "we don't have the status of their current location." He did not name them.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Mubashir Jilani, however, said, "We haven't handed over any new prisoners to the United States recently."

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Photos from the Front

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ABOVE Spc. Carlos Antonio Fields, of the Air Defense Artillery Battery, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, observes incoming vehicles during a recent guard shift on Dragon Forward Operating Base, Iraq.

U.S. Army

BELOW Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, climb using the buddy assist method off the front of a Bradley fighting vehicle to set up a perimeter around a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Duane Brown/U.S. Army



TOP RIGHT Spc. Carlos Antonio Fields, Air Defense Artillery Battery, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, observes incoming vehicles during a recent guard shift on Dragon Forward Operating Base, Iraq.

U.S. Army

RIGHT Camp Liberty's first "tourist attraction" is an SA-2 surface-to-air missile replica, which soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, recovered north of the nearby town of Abu Ghraib, Iraq.

Jason Chudy/Stars and Stripes



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A U I P'orday l'osm i g des le S re w "





U.S. soldiers question a driver at a checkpoint on the road leading to Baghdad airport. American troops fired on the car rushing Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after a month in captivity Friday night, killing the Italian intelligence officer who helped negotiate her release and wounding Sgrena.

Road: 'It is a battleground;... without rules or certainties'

ROAD, FROM PAGE 1

Having reported from Iraq for much of the last two years, I was initially dismayed to hear that a fellow journalist having survived the unimaginable stress and fear of being a hostage was then the victim of an American military shooting. But when I learned the incident occurred on the airport road, it became, at one level, understandable.

Bad things happen on the airport road — all the time. Many people who travel it on a regular basis have a personal horror story, a moment when they thought, "this might be it." Everyone else has a friend who has had one.

Since the war, the airport road has not been any ordinary highway.

It is a battleground; a place without rules or certainties, a place where there are no guarantees of safety for civilians or soldiers of any nationality.

For the ordinary traveler, there are two hazards: the wary, short-fused American troops who have lost dozens of their comrades to roadside bombs and ambushes on the road, and the insurgents who target the U.S. military convoys that ply the route.

It is a road to be approached with caution, with a plan, with wariness of every other car and every American convoy. About five hours before Sgrena was shot, I was on the same road, traveling in the opposite direction from the airport into Baghdad with what has become routine unease. Rather than looking at the scenery, I stared straight ahead and felt a faint nausea.

Most organizations whose employees must travel the route have rules for how to do it. Like most security measures in war zones, they are going until the day they don't work. Some people use armored vehicles and have chase cars with armed guards, believe that while they may be conspicuous, at least in an armored car they will survive if insurgents open fire.

Others who are wary that armored vehicles might attract the insurgents will only travel in old Iraqi cars.

No one talks much about the reality that only the heaviest armor (the kind used by the military) can withstand a roadside bomb,

and even then not all roadside bombs. Few civilian cars are outfitted with that amount of armor.

I travel in an old Iraqi car, and dress in a black gown and headscarf so as not to attract attention. When a military convoy appears, my driver slows down and waits for it to get at least half a mile ahead before we pick up our pace again. If we get too close and insurgents open fire on the convoy, we may not get hit.

As the road slipped by from Fri-

tance with cell phones or garage door openers. Sometimes they shoot from the rooftops of houses.

The military is up against a community that may not like the insurgents but is afraid to turn them in. An Iraqi friend said he has a brother-in-law who lives in Amariya and knows which houses were used by insurgents targeting the road.

"I know but I will never tell because they would find out and kill me," he said.

The Americans have tried to make it difficult for insurgents to operate along the road. They have chopped down palm trees and taken down fences that insurgents hid behind. They have put up ob-

servations cameras. They have handed out leaflets and warned people who live in the area not to collaborate with insurgents. But insurgents keep finding new modes of attack.

On Friday, a military convoy sped by. We stopped, letting it go far ahead. Next we sighted two SUVs that looked like they might be carrying security contractors. Again we slowed, for fear that insurgents might target them.

Suddenly Ahmad sped up, barreling down the rough highway at nearly 80 mph. My worries about insurgents and skittish U.S. soldiers quickly turned to fear of a car accident as he honked to get cars to move out of the way.

He believed we were being followed. A burgundy car with three men in it was visible in our rear view mirror, speeding close behind us.

We couldn't tell if they were armed.

Finally, we lost them and slowed down. As we drew up to our hotel, we saw the car again — it had been the chase car of another news organization. The misplaced suspicion would have been funny, if the situation had not been so dangerous.

The Italians were on the road at a far worse time. Although there are few attacks at night, there is also little visibility, and the U.S. military suspects every vehicle.

Like us, Sgrena must have been frightened by the road. But having just escaped from insurgents, I wonder if she ever thought she'd be mistaken for one of them?

28 U.S. troops from Hawaii remembered

BY JAYMES SONG
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A baby who was never held by his father. A wife who will never hear her husband's voice. A mother who will never see her only son's smile.

On Monday afternoon, they were invited to attend a rare memorial service at the state Capitol rotunda honoring 28 Hawaii-based servicemen, all but one killed in a single helicopter crash in Iraq.

Twenty-six Kaneohe Marines and a Pearl Harbor sailor were among the 31 service personnel killed when their helicopter went down in western Iraq in late January.

It was the single deadliest event for the American military in Iraq since the United States invaded that country in March 2003, and it was the largest num-

ber of Marines to die in a single incident since the terrorist bombing of a Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983.

Family members from the mainland and hundreds of servicemen members based on Oahu were expected to attend the memorial, including busloads from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay.

"At the end of the day, we hope the families feel that we have appropriately honored their son's sacrifices," said Chuck Little, a spokesman for Marine Forces Pacific.

With the deaths in the helicopter crash, a total of 43 Marines from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have been killed in the Iraq war.

"It's had a tremendous impact" on the base, Kaneohe spokesman Capt. Chris Perrine said. "It's very sobering and painful to lose brother Marines."

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IN THE STATES



Hoffman

BY JON SARCHE
The Associated Press

DENVER — University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman announced Monday that she is resigning amid a football recruiting scandal and a national controversy over an activist professor who compared victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to a notorious Nazi.

U. of Colorado president to resign

Football program, professor scandals plagued tenure

Hoffman, who has been president for five years, told the Board of Regents in a letter that her resignation is effective June 30 or whenever the board names a successor.

"It appears to me it is in the university's best interest that I remove the issue of my future from

the debate so that nothing inhibits CU's ability to successfully create the bright future it so deserves," Hoffman wrote.

An independent commission reported last year that Colorado players used sex, alcohol and marijuana as recruiting tools.

And in February, administra-

tors took the first steps toward a possible dismissal of professor Ward Churchill, who likened World Trade Center victims to Nazi Adolph Eichmann.

"I've taken my future off the table so to some extent I can focus my attention on issues that face the university and not on my personal future," Hoffman said in an interview.

She cited the upcoming trial of a civil lawsuit that stemmed from the football recruiting scandal.

"Sometimes you need to say someone else perhaps needs to take the next step and that's what I've decided," Hoffman said. "I think it's really important to focus my attention on what needs to be done and not feel that I have to defend myself against attacks."

Regent Michael Carrigan declined to comment on her resignation.

At least nine women have said they were assaulted by Colorado football players or recruits since 1997.

Just last week, a grand jury said two female trainers alleged they were sexually assaulted by an assistant coach and that a "calush fund" was created with money from coach Gary Barnett's football camp, according to a report leaked to the media.

The grand jury, which finished meeting Aug. 19, handed up a single indictment accusing a former football recruiting aide of soliciting a prostitute for himself and misusing a school-issued cell phone.

A parallel investigation by then-Attorney General Ken Salazar into the alleged assaults resulted in no charges; prosecutors cited concerns about evidence and the reluctance of the women to go forward with the cases.

Hoffman said the school fully cooperated with the grand jury and launched financial audits of Barnett's football camp and the university's fund raising arm, even though both are independent organizations.

A review of Churchill's speeches and writings is being conducted to determine if the professor overstepped his boundaries of academic freedom and whether that should be grounds for dismissal.

The furor over Churchill erupted in January after he was invited to speak at Hamilton College in upstate New York. Campus officials discovered an essay and follow-up book in which he said the Sept. 11 attacks were a response to a history of American abuses abroad, particularly against indigenous peoples.

Among other things, he said the people killed in the trade center were "little Eichmanns," a reference to the man who organized Nazi plans to exterminate Jews. The college canceled Churchill's appearance, citing death threats and concerns about security.

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Supreme Court limits secrecy in tax cases

BY HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court eliminated some of the secrecy faced by Americans taking tax disputes to the U.S. Tax Court, ruling Monday that factual recommendations in the proceedings must be disclosed.

While the official opinions of the tax court are made public, people are not allowed to see recommendations by specially appointed judges who hold trials in cases involving more than \$50,000, and who also write detailed reports.

In a 7-2 decision, the court said that was wrong, finding it to be a violation of tax court rules. It noted that initial findings made by magistrate and bankruptcy judges in other proceedings are open.

"However efficient the Tax Court's practice may be, we find no reason for it in the rules the Tax Court publishes," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority.

The commissioner may not rely on the tax court's arbitrary construction of its own rules to insulate special trial judges from disclosure."

In dissent, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said justices should defer to the Tax Court's interpretation of its own rules. He said while the Tax Court had released the fact reports for 40 years, a rules change in 1983 ar-

guously allowed them to stop the practice.

Taxpayers fighting with the Internal Revenue Service may use traditional courts if they pay the IRS first, then sue to recover the money. The U.S. Tax Court is available to people who want to contest IRS findings before paying any cash. The president names the 19 members.

The case involved a pair of appeals that stem from accusations that a real estate executive, Claude Ballard, and a prominent, now-deceased tax attorney with ties to Hollywood, Burton Kanter, were part of a kickback scheme. The IRS sought \$30 million in back taxes and penalties.

In other decisions, the Supreme Court:

■ Voted 5-3 to limit federal judges' sentencing power, ruling that judges may examine only plea agreements or defendants' admissions regarding prior convictions, not police reports or other evidence, when tacking on prison time. Rehnquist did not participate in the case.

■ Ruled 8-1 that two Ohio prisoners may file federal civil rights complaints in an effort to get parole hearings denied them by the state.

■ Declined to consider whether a black truck driver, Tyrone Williams, who is accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants, was improperly singled out for a possible death sentence because of his race.

III. tsunami victim

EVANSTON, Ill. — The remains of a 33-year-old Illinois man who died in the Asian tsunami here were found in Thailand, his family said.

Ben Ahls was vacationing on the island of Phi Phi when his beachside bungalow was inundated with water Dec. 26. Ahls had been missing since the disaster.

Boeing ousts CEO

CHICAGO — Boeing Co. abruptly forced out its president and chief executive officer, Harry Stoner, for what the company said Monday was a violation of the company's code of business conduct stemming from a relationship the married, 68-year-old Stoner had with a female Boeing executive.

The stunning order makes Stoner the second CEO to depart the Chicago-based airplane maker and defense contractor in disgrace in the past 15 months. His predecessor, Phil Condit, resigned Dec. 1, 2003, as a result of the defense contracting scandals.

Physicist Bethe dies

ITHACA, N.Y. — Hans Bethe, one of the last of the giants of 20th-century physics, who played a pivotal role in designing the first atomic bomb and won a Nobel Prize for figuring out how the sun and other stars generate energy, died Sunday at 98.

During World War II, he was a key figure in the building of the first atomic bomb as head of the Manhattan Project's theoretical physics division at Los Alamos, N.M.

Martha back to work

NEW YORK — After five months in prison, Martha Stewart is wasting little time smelling the roses. Stewart was expected Monday to report back to her company's corporate headquarters in Manhattan and get back to work.

She planned to meet with her employees at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. and to address a staff diminished by layoffs in her absence, but also no doubt encouraged by a rising stock price.

From The Associated Press



Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, walks arm in arm with other members of Congress on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on Sunday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. From left are Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.; Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif.; Lewis; Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Rep. Arthur Davis, D-Ala., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

40 years later, congressman marks historic rights march

The Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. — Rep. John Lewis returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, 40 years after he braved Billy clubs and tear gas in one of the grimmest, goriest spectacles of the civil rights movement.

"President Johnson signed that act, but it was written by the people of Selma," said Lewis, who was clubbed on the head during the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers by state troopers and sheriff's deputies on March 7, 1965.

He was among 17 blacks hospitalized as that march was turned back while crossing the bridge.

Participants also included singer Harry Belafonte, who was at the demonstration 40 years ago, and Coretta Scott King, whose husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., led a second march two weeks later to the state Capitol.

"The freedom we won here in

"The freedom we won here in Selma and on the road to Montgomery was purchased with the precious blood of many."

Coretta Scott King

widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Selma and on the road to Montgomery was purchased with the precious blood of many," said King, who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in a car.

Police estimated the crowd at nearly 10,000. A re-enactment of the five-day march is planned this week, culminating with a

rally at the Capitol on Saturday.

In a service at Brown Chapel, six blocks from the bridge, Lewis cited former President Bill Clinton, who crossed the bridge with Selma marchers in 2000, and former Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman as white politicians who have greeted modern civil rights concerns with open arms.

Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, such as the use of federal examinations and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, longtime head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, urged the nearly three dozen House and Senate members who participated to renew those portions of the law.

"Their presence here is a mockery unless they go home and do the right thing," said Lowery, who also joined King on the march to the Capitol.

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A hazmat worker suits up to return to a tanker car in Salt Lake City that began leaking chemicals Sunday morning. Local police evacuated nearby residents Sunday afternoon, but returned Monday after crews finished pumping out the chemicals Monday.



AP

Utah officials concerned over tanker chemical leak

BY LEON D'SOUZA
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Crews early Monday finished pumping toxic waste from a leaking rail tanker car that triggered the evacuation of 6,000 people, but they still don't know exactly what they're dealing with.

Early Monday, residents were back in their home, the cleanup was under way and most of the closed highways nearby were about to be reopened.

The area downwind of the leak was evacuated Sunday because of fumes from the spill. Fire Chief Steve Foote said. Officials were angered that they could not pin down what was in the tank. The information they were given conflicted with their own observations.

The tanker car's manifest said it was sulfuric and hydrofluoric acids; the company told them it was hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, nitric and sulfuric acids. Late Sunday, the company corrected itself, saying the contents were phosphoric, acetic, sulfuric and

hydrofluoric acids, and ammonia — all at a concentration of only 10 percent.

"What's concerning us is the concentration level," Foote said, saying the waste appeared to be of a much higher concentration.

The tanker car originally carried 13,000 gallons of nitric acid at 94 percent concentration from Kennecott Utah Copper — a mining, smelting, and refining company — to Darwin, Nev., Foote said. He said the tanker car, sublet to another company, was then loaded with the industrial waste and the train arrived at the Roper Rail Yard in South Salt Lake on Sunday.

It was supposed to be taken to Ohio, where the waste was to be solidified and buried, but the tanker was found to be leaking.

Officials spent all day trying to find out what was in the tanker from a company they first identified as Philips Environmental but later called Philip Services.

"The rules are absolutely specific," about detailing contents being shipped, Foote said. "Somebody dropped the ball here."

1 of 13 small cars flunk institute's side-impact testing

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The Dodge Neon, Ford Focus and Volkswagen's New Beetle are among the small cars that got the lowest safety rating in new side-impact crash tests performed by an independent, nonprofit organization.

Eleven of the 13 cars tested earned a "poor," the lowest of four ratings, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said. The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable," but only when they were tested with their optional side air bags. They earned "poor" ratings without the air bags.

Other vehicles that earned a "poor" rating were the Hyundai Elantra, Kia Spectra, Mazda 3, Mitsubishi Lancer, Nissan Sentra, Saturn Ion, Suzuki Forenza and Suzuki Aerie. The results were released Sunday.

The institute's test simulates a severe crash. A barrier designed to resemble the front of a pickup or sport utility vehicle hits the side of the vehicle at 31 mph. A "poor" rating means a

high chance of serious injury in a similar crash.

Four of the vehicles tested — the Elantra, New Beetle, Forenza and Spectra — have standard, head-protecting side air bags. But the institute's chief operating officer, Adrian Lund, said the cars had poor structure that failed to prevent injuries to the torso and pelvis.

Several of the vehicles offer optional side air bags, but the institute will only test those vehicles without side air bags unless the manufacturer provides a second vehicle with the option installed.

Toyota Motor Co. provided the Corolla with side air bags and General Motors Corp. provided the Cobalt and Saturn Ion. But

even when it was tested with its optional side air bags, the Ion got a "poor" rating because the institute said it didn't adequately protect the driver's lower body.

The institute was most critical of the Neon, saying the car performed so poorly that the driver likely wouldn't have survived the crash. DaimlerChrysler AG defended the Neon, saying it meets federal safety standards and its performance is similar to other small cars.

The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable," but only when they were tested with their optional side air bags.



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Study: Campaign upped Internet news traffic

NEW YORK — Reliance on the Internet for political news during last year's U.S. presidential campaign grew sixfold from 1996, while newspaper influence dropped sharply, according to a study.

Eighteen percent of American adults cited the Internet as one of their two main sources of news about the presidential races, compared with 3 percent in 1996. The reliance on television grew slightly to 78 percent, up from 72 percent.

Meanwhile, the influence of newspapers dropped to 39 percent last year, from 60 percent in 1996, according to the joint, telephone-based survey from the Pew Research Center for The People and the Press and the Pew Internet and American Life Project that was released Sunday.

Nonetheless, Americans who got campaign news over the Internet were more likely to visit sites of major news organizations such as CNN and The New York Times (43 percent) rather than Internet-only resources such as candidate Web sites and Web journals, known as blogs (24 percent).

Twenty-eight percent said they primarily used news pages of America Online Inc., Yahoo Inc. and other online services, which carry dispatches from traditional news sources such as The Associated Press and Reuters.

Sharpton proposes radio ban

NEW YORK — Rev. Al Sharpton said he will propose a 90-day ban on radio and television airplay for any performer who uses violence in their music to make a profit.

The activist and former presidential candidate plans to ask the Federal Communications Commission and major radio broadcasters around the country to support the ban.

Sharpton's announcement follows last week's shooting at the WQHT-FM studios that was suspected to be started by a feud between rappers 50 Cent and The Game.

From The Associated Press



Sharpton

Study: Aspirin cuts stroke risk in women

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Middle-age women can cut their risk of strokes but not heart attacks by regularly taking low doses of aspirin, and the pills help prevent both problems in women 65 and older, a major study found.

The results are opposite what is known about aspirin in men, where its benefit for stroke is limited and its ability to prevent heart problems is legendary. Since women proportionately suffer more strokes and men more heart attacks, this is generally good news, specialists said.

Researchers also found that taking vitamin E did not good for

Low doses not found to benefit heart, as seen in men

women of any age, confirming a study last fall that concluded supplements of this nutrient could even be harmful.

The new information comes from the Women's Health Study, the first rigorous, scientific test of whether long-term use of aspirin or vitamin E made a difference in cardiovascular risk in females.

Previous research has been almost exclusively in males.

Findings were reported Monday at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. They also were being published online by the New England Journal of Medicine and will be in the March 31 print edition.

The study has "major public health implications," said Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the research with the National Cancer Institute.

"In contrast to men, aspirin did not reduce the risk of nonfatal or fatal heart attacks in women of all ages but did so in women over age 65," she said.

The study was led by Julie Buring, Dr. Paul Ridker and others at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Many have been consultants to aspirin makers, but the companies

did not run the federally funded study. Bayer Healthcare supplied aspirin for it and the Natural Source Vitamin E Association supplied that nutrient.

In the study, 40,000 female health professionals 45 and older were randomly assigned to take either four pills or 100 milligrams of aspirin — slightly more than the 81-milligram "baby aspirin" pills commonly sold — every other day.

After 10 years, aspirin users had a 17 percent lower risk of stroke, and a 24 percent lower risk of strokes caused by blood clots, owing, researchers believe,

to aspirin's well-known anti-clotting properties.

Women 65 and older got even more benefit: They were 30 percent less likely to have a stroke caused by a blood clot and 34 percent less likely to suffer a heart attack.

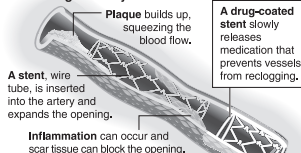
Aspirin's benefits were greatest for nonsmokers and former smokers, and didn't vary among women who did or did not use hormones after menopause.

The study "demonstrates the importance of studying medical therapies among women as well as men," Buring said. "We finally have the evidence base needed for women to make rational decisions about the use of aspirin in preventing cardiovascular disease."

Drug-coated stents open possibilities

Tiny metal scaffolds that prop open arteries and are drug-coated has transformed heart treatment. Nearly nine out of 10 stents used in the United States now are drug-coated.

Unblocking an artery with metal



Source: Food and Drug Administration

AP

Drug-coated stents could prevent bypass surgery

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — New research comparing rival brands of drug-coated, tiny mesh tubes called stents finds they are equally excellent at keeping heart arteries open, and that one may be better for diabetics.

These devices, which slowly leach medication into blood vessels to keep them from squeezing shut after procedures to remove blockages, have revolutionized heart care so much in the last few years that studies now are aimed at finding which ones work best for which patients — not whether they work at all.

They are vastly better than the plain old metal stents that were standard just a few years ago. So good on the new ones are so good that more patients are being successfully treated with them and avoiding a more drastic alternative — heart bypass surgery.

Two are on the market — Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxus stent, and Cypher, made by Cordis Corp., a Johnson & Johnson company.

Natick, Mass.-based Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxus stent was approved last year.

"Both devices have made remarkable progress" in treating

heart disease, said Dr. Gregg Stone, a cardiologist at Columbia University Medical Center, who was not involved in the comparison studies.

New studies on stents were presented Sunday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Orlando. They showed that benefits apparently last for years, and that even very big blockages in very small vessels — some nearly two inches long — can be fixed with such stents, sometimes using overlapping ones.

The devices work so well that when an older stent clogs, it's better to put a new drug-coated one inside it than to treat the problem with radiation as has been done in the past, one study found.

Competitors also are being developed that could help cut the price of these devices. One novel type even dissolves in the body once its job is done.

"It's looking very good," Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist, said of the evidence for drug-coated stents. "The benefit is going to be substantial in the long term."

Clogged arteries can cause a heart attack. One solution is open-heart bypass surgery, in which blood vessels from elsewhere in the body are used to create detours around blockages.

South Beach Diet researchers help to develop school menus

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Nine-year-old Kelly Ferrer no longer gets the waffles, pancakes and sugar cereals that she loved eating for breakfast last year at Mill Creek Elementary School's cafeteria.

This year, instead, she is served whole wheat bread, lowfat cheese and fruit as part of a study by a research center founded by Dr. Arthur Agatston, the author of "The South Beach Diet."

The goal of the study at six schools in this Orlando suburb is to evaluate whether school cafeterias are capable of serving more nutritious ingredients, if kids will eat them and whether students' health improves from better eating.

The program underscores growing concerns across the nation about childhood obesity. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about one out of five U.S. children are obese, a problem that may lead to diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

"We're not putting the children on The South Beach Diet," said Danielle Hollan, deputy director of research at the Agatston Research Institute. "We're trying to provide healthier options for these children and in the long run we hope they learn to eat healthier and incorporate that into their daily living."

Although the 3,000 students involved in the study haven't been put on the low-carb diet per se, many of the diet's guiding principles have been incorporated into school menus.

White bread and white flour products have been stricken and replaced with whole-wheat products. White potatoes were replaced with sweet potatoes. French fries were abolished. Grilled chicken replaced breaded chicken. Fruits have taken the place of sweets for desserts.

Students at the beginning of the school year were weighed, their height measured and their blood pressure and pulse recorded. Those same measurements will be taken in April. The institute has paid for the \$10,000 extra cost.

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Kuwaitis debating women's voting rights

BY DIANA ELIAS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait's Cabinet on Monday hastened a parliamentary debate on an amendment it proposed to this conservative Gulf state's election law, which aims to give women the right to vote and stand as political candidates.

The decision came during a parliamentary session attended by hundreds of women activists who had earlier demonstrated outside the legislature demanding equal voting rights for women in Kuwait, a close U.S. ally that was until recently the sole democracy among Gulf Arab states.

Last month, Cabinet asked for the parliament to speed up deliberation on the amendment, which it introduced last year. The request came after 10 legislators proposing the constitutional court rule on the 1962 election law that restricts political rights to women.

Deputy prime minister, Mohammed Shammah, said the request to speed up debate needed no vote. He said he would meet with a Parliamentary committee to discuss the proposal and set a date for a vote by the all-male house.

At one stage, Kuwaiti women watching from the parliament's gallery broke out into applause after lawmakers backed the amendment. But the parliament's speaker ordered them and the rest of the gallery out after the outbreak.



Afghan refugee women walk inside an abandoned building in Kabul, Afghanistan, where they and other returning exiles are living Friday. Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has appointed the first female provincial governor, and later this year, its people will elect a new parliament, with 25 percent of the seats reserved for women.

Afghanistan women begin journey to political parity

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fifteen Afghan men, heads slightly bowed, filed into a crowded living room to greet the recently appointed chief of Bamian province. They sip tea and listen patiently as the new governor holds court.

Such a courtesy call is commonplace in this deeply hierarchical society when someone wins high office — save for one critical difference: On this occasion, the man's respect is directed toward a woman, the first female governor in this Islamic nation's long and tortured history.

Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan is casting off the shackles of fundamentalism that once barred its women from public life, kept girls from

school and barred women from working.

The selection of Habiba Sarobi to head the central highland province of Bamian is a new milestone, but the governor is the first to acknowledge that it masks a sad reality. "There are equal rights for women on paper. The challenge is to put it into practice ... Afghanistan is still a male-dominated society," Sarobi said.

For the vast majority of Afghan women, little has changed since the Taliban's ouster, with their daily lives dominated by archaic traditions and grinding poverty.

Women's literacy rates are just 14 percent, a third of what they are for men.

Before Afghanistan descended into war two decades ago, women were no strangers to high office. As early as the 1950s, they served in the legislature, and worked as

judges and diplomats. In the 1970s, a woman served as the minister of health. During the Soviet occupation of the 1980s, up to 70 percent of teachers were women.

A wave of fundamentalism swept the country after Islamic holy warriors ousted the Soviet army in 1989 — culminating seven years later in the rule of the Taliban.

Since the hard-line regime's ouster by U.S.-led forces in late 2001, millions of girls have returned to school. And while women are still mostly on the periphery of public life and business, career opportunities have reopened for them, at least in cities.

Women's rights were enshrined in a democratic constitution adopted in early 2004. But skeptics — and even the high-profile women appointees themselves — concede they have little political clout.

Artificial heart for twin

BELJING — Surgeons in China who are preparing to separate conjoined twin boys will let one keep their shared heart and give the other an artificial heart, a news report said Monday.

Doctors have said the risky surgery to separate the 3-month-old boys should go ahead because they will die without it. They also share a liver and intestines.

Children in containers

LAGOS, Nigeria — Police found more than 60 children packed into a shipping container in Lagos, and a police spokesman said Monday it was believed they were to be sold as slaves or servants.

A woman accompanying the children was arrested after police discovered between 60 and 70 boys and girls ages five to 14 on Sunday in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. The children were in a container normally used for carrying fish, said a Nigerian police spokesman.

Art stolen, recovered

OSLO, Norway — Three works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch — including a unique watercolor titled "Blue Dress" — were recovered Monday, less than 24 hours after thieves with crowbars pried them loose from a restaurant's walls, police said.

Authorities also made several arrests in the capital, police spokesman Iver Stensrud said.

He declined to say how many were detained or give details about the condition of the stolen watercolor and two lithographs.

Moldova elections

CHISINAU, Moldova — Moldova's governing pro-Western Communists won a parliamentary majority in national elections, but fell short of taking enough seats to re-elect President Vladimir Voronin, according to final results released Monday.

With all the ballots counted, Voronin's Communists had some 46 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, down from the 50 percent the party polled in 2001 elections, the Central Electoral Commission said.

From The Associated Press

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Dollar costs	\$1.3574
Euro buys	€0.7367
British pound	£0.6191
Japanese yen (March 5)	¥102.90
South Korean won (March 5)	₩982.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698
British pound	1.2305
Canada (Dollar)	0.6191
Denmark (Krone)	5.32
Egypt (Pound)	\$1.3574/€0.7367
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7992
Hungary (Forint)	240.36
Iceland (Krona)	50.92
Israel (Shekel)	3.256
Japan (Yen)	104.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	4.292
Norway (Krone)	5.98
Philippines (Peso)	46.33
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.58
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0298
South Korea (Won)	1006.54
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7563
Thailand (Baht)	35.38
Taiwan (New Dollar)	25.25

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance and the United Kingdom. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	\$434.90
Gold	— \$73.38
Silver	— \$7.38

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.50
Federal funds market rate	3.50
3-month bill	2.75
30-year mortgage	4.65

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Money resources for women

Knight Ridder News Service

Women have a variety of resources available when looking for financial information, particularly on the Internet.

Several Web sites offer financial information tailored to women, offering advice on everything from retirement planning to taxes.

Here is a sampling of some of the sites with good financial information:

■ BlueSuitMom.com, www.bluemom.com/money/ Serves up an array of financial subjects important to women.

■ MsMoney.com, (www.msmonney.com) Features investment strategies, loan and credit information and more.

■ Women's Finance, (www.womens-finance.com) Covers a host of topics, from budgeting to taxes and investing.

■ Women's Institute for Financial Education (www.wife.org/money-invest) Provides insights on a variety of investment topics.

■ Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (www.wiser.bein.org/manager-savings) Offers information on geared toward retirement saving.

Prince Charles in New Zealand



Britain's Prince Charles greets with hongs, traditional Maori warriors, with Lt. Tamahou Ripa on his arrival Monday at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand. Prince Charles is making a five day visit to New Zealand.

FOOTPRESS/AP

Quick Trips

Fancy Nancy

French city prepares for celebration

BY JOHN TAYLOR
Stars and Stripes

Nancy, France, is a city known for its art, architecture and city design. It is a place everyone should go see.

Just don't do it now.

The city's grandest attraction, Place Stanislas, is undergoing renovation. The "metamorphosis" is in preparation for this year's 250th anniversary of its creation and is scheduled to be completed in April — although a clerk at the nearby tourist office told us it would be ready in May.

The Place was designed to honor French King Louis XV by his father-in-law, Stanislas Leszczyński. Stanislas had been king of Poland briefly, and a French-backed effort to restore him to power failed. However, he was made duke of Lorraine by the French king, and from a position of comfort promoted the arts, sciences and the good life.

Place Stanislas forms a rectangle, about the size of three football fields lying side by side. It is open in the middle except for a statue of Stanislas — the original statue of Louis XV was destroyed during the French Revolution and replaced by the one of Stanislas in 1831.

The Place is surrounded by matching buildings, including the town hall. At its corners are gates with elaborate grill work, part of them painted gold. It has two fountains, the larger one completely covered as part of the renovation.

The Place is getting new drainage and paving stones and will be blocked off to traffic. Currently, it is possible only to walk along its borders. However, the restaurants, museums, shops and hotel houses in its 250-year-old buildings are open for business.

Outside one gate is Parc de la Pépinière, a large park with walking paths, cafes and a small zoo. Outside another is Nancy's own Arc de Triomphe and the old town, including the Ducal Palace. The palace houses the Musée Historique Lorraine, which exhibits about the history of the area, including one on Stanislas that is running through March 21.



PHOTOS BY PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

A statue of Stanislas Leszczyński, duke of Lorraine and former king of Poland, marks the hub of Place Stanislas, which is under renovation.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

About 150 years after the creation of Place Stanislas, Nancy again was an important center in design. Artists there developed art nouveau — a style of design that spread through Europe under different names, including *Jugendstil* in Germany.

It mimicked nature with long, graceful lines, often in the shape of plants and tendrils, and was used in making glassware, jewelry, furniture, textile and posters.

For a brief period, architects used the same look to create

buildings. No longer were they rigid blocks with rectangular doors and windows, but rather structures with rounded arches, circular windows, balconies with railings that resembled plant stems and leaves, and turrets rising from the roofs and sides of buildings. Doors and windows often included patterns with colored glass, and inside there were drop ceilings with glass designs illuminated from above by lights.

Several of these buildings are clustered along a pedestrian shopping area that runs from a few blocks from Place Stanislas down to the train station and beyond. One of the buildings is the Brasserie Excelsior, just across from the train station and a popular place for people to stop for a drink and to admire the scenery.

Nancy is still considered one of the centers for art nouveau architecture — along with the



Louis Majorelle designed the elaborate ironwork at Maison Weissenburger, which was designed by art nouveau architect Lucien Weissenburger at the beginning of the 20th century.



The Maison Weissenburger is one of Nancy's better-known art nouveau buildings.

larger cities of Paris; Brussels, Belgium; and Vienna, Austria. The tourist office has a map listing 67 buildings that can be viewed from the outside. You can step inside some of them for a quick look around, assuming you remember they are still a place of business and don't make a fuss.

E-mail John Taylor at: taylorj@mail.esrpress.osd.mil.

On the QT



Directions

Take Autobahn 6 from the Kaiserslautern area to the French border, where it becomes Autoroute 4. Continue toward Paris, to the intersection with Autoroute 31 just past Metz. Head south until the exits for the center of Nancy, and follow signs for either Office de Tourisme or Place Stanislas. The drive takes about two hours from Kaiserslautern, and there is one toll, for 3.70 euros.



Times

It is possible to go any time to see Place Stanislas and the art nouveau buildings, but the viewing of both would be better in good weather — say, after early May when the renovation work should be done. The Musée Historique Lorraine is closed on Tuesday, and the Musée de l'École de Nancy, is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.



Costs

Admission to the Musée Historique Lorraine and the neighboring church is 3.10 euros for adults, 2.30 for children; the price for both the special Stanislas exhibit and museum is 6 euros, with the ticket good all day (the museum closes for 90 minutes at 12:30 p.m.). Admission to the Musée de l'École de Nancy is 1.60 for adults, 2.30 for children.



Food

There are places to eat around Place Stanislas, the museums and the pedestrian shopping areas, including restaurants, cafes and carry-out sandwich shops. The Brasserie Excelsior serves meals, but they aren't cheap so you may be better off settling for a cup of coffee there.



Information

The tourist office at Place Stanislas is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays and holidays from April to October, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday and holidays the rest of the year. Its Web site is www.ot-nancy.fr.

For a list of activities, see www.Nancy2005.com.

— JOHN TAYLOR

OPINION

A really bad guy, but still a U.S. citizen

New York Daily News

A federal court in South Carolina ruled last week that Brooklyn-born Jose Padilla, reputed al-Qaeda bomber-in-training, cannot indefinitely be jailed without charges, notwithstanding more than ample evidence of his intent to wreak havoc on American soil and notwithstanding whatever useful war-on-terror intelligence his military interrogators may yet pry out of him.

"The president has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant," the judge ruled. In other words, charge Padilla or release him.

Solid argument. It is persuasively the case that Padilla is a very bad actor and that we are all much the safer for his having been behind bars for the past three years—but the man is still a U.S. citizen, entitled to constitutional protections. He cannot just be tossed into a cell for as long as authorities desire.

The rule of law simply requires that Pa-

dilla must be charged. With something. With anything.

In real terms, of course, the district court's ruling means little to Padilla.

The Justice Department will appeal—again and again, we expect—and this is a case that will almost certainly wind its way to the Supreme Court, not necessarily quickly: In real terms, Padilla will be neither charged nor released anytime soon.

But the ruling does put the White House on notice that courts do not necessarily agree that executive authority is limitless, even in time of war.

Ultimately, this will be a matter for Congress to wrestle into practical manageability.

Meanwhile, things would become much less immediately complex if only Padilla's captors might find one formal allegation or another to stick on him.

We are reminded of Roaring 'Twenties Chicago criminal Al Capone, who was somehow, so to speak,

untouchable — until the feds took him down on marginal income tax technicalities.

The ruling puts the White House on notice that courts do not necessarily agree that executive authority is limitless, even in time of war.



Al thought that was a real dirty trick. But off he went to prison regardless. One way or another.

And a cell seems the right place for Jose Padilla to be as well, on the basis of what we know of him so far: a self-admitted al-Qaeda soldier, a self-admitted associate of now-imprisoned terror chieftain Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a man Justice says

was plotting to blow up apartment buildings and detonate radioactive dirty bombs, a man Justice says already has given up information that remains highly classified and cannot yet be talked about. Prison's the place for him.

Keep him there. Just charge him. With something. Anything. That's the law.

Telephone a roulette wheel for Marine recruiters

BY SUSAN REIMER

The Baltimore Sun

The Marine Corps fell slightly short of its recruiting goals in January, and again in February, the first time that hasn't happened in nearly a decade. But it was not for want of trying, because the phone was ringing in my house.

I got two calls from Marine recruiters in January, and they went something like this:

"Evening, ma'am. Is Jessica available?"

"No, I am sorry, she's not. Can I take a message?"

I wasn't surprised by the call from my college-student daughter.

People are still calling her to baby-sit, and she's been gone since August.

"This is Marine Staff Sgt. Somethingorother from the Marine recruiting office," he said. "Could you arrange for me to speak to her?"

"Oh," I said, slightly startled. "Jessica is in college."

I punctuated my response with a nervous little laugh, and I thought that would kind of settle things.

But Staff Sgt. Somethingorother only paused briefly before continuing.

"Oh. How is that going?"

I didn't think he wanted to hear about the time her laundry disappeared from the dryer and she had to call campus police. I didn't think he wanted to hear about how her lacrosse team had to get

up at dawn on a Sunday morning to clean the bleachers in the football stadium, so I just said, "Fine."

It suddenly occurred to me that he was hoping Jessie was finding college a terrible disappointment and was on her way home to enlist in the Marines.

"I am sorry," I said, again laughing nervously. "Have you met Jessie?"

"No, Ma'am," he said.

"Well, before this goes any further, you should know that Jessie would never consider an occupation that required her to wear the same outfit every day, let alone an outfit of someone else's choosing."

"Ma'am," he said.

"Never mind," I said. "Thank you for calling. Good luck with your recruiting."

The next night, the phone rang again.

"Evening ma'am. Is Joseph available?"

Oh, no, I thought. Here we go again.

"No, he is not. Can I take a message?"

"Ma'am, this is Marine Staff Sgt. Reallyflatstomach of the Marine recruiting office. Could you arrange for me to speak to him?"

Exasperated, I said, "Don't you people in the armed services talk to each other? Joseph is at the Naval Academy."

I thought that would settle things, but the Marine recruiter only paused before saying, "Oh. How is that going?"

I didn't think he wanted to hear me say that it depended on your point of view. If you wanted your

son to be a military officer and go to war, you could say that things are going well.

However, if you wanted your son to graduate from an Ivy League school and take up the much less hazardous life of, say, a stockbroker, then, no, things are not going according to plan.

But all I said was, "Fine."

Then I added, "You are likely to see Joe before I do. Tell him his mother says, 'Hi.'"

Things must have been getting desperate at the Marine recruiting office because it called my friend Betsy about her son, Jeff, a high school senior.

God bless Jeff, but if the enemy offered him dinner at a Chinese restaurant or at a rib joint, it would be all over for our country.

Jeff is a wrestler and he is usu-

ally cutting weight. Food comes to have special meaning for wrestlers.

Anyway, Jeff came home from school and told his mother that a Marine recruiter had visited his class and because nobody else had raised their hands when he asked for individual meetings with the students, Jeff had raised his.

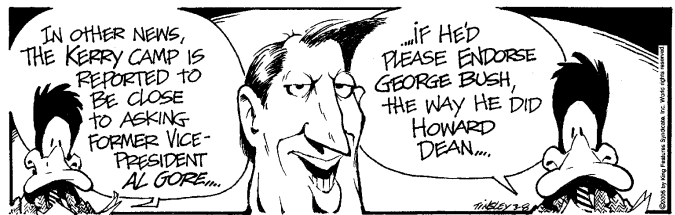
"I felt bad for him," Jeff told his mother, his voice rising defensively. "That's another reason why we don't want Jeff defending our borders. He feels sorry for everybody."

Jeff didn't have to do much talking to persuade his mother to take the call from the Marine recruiter.

"Over my dead body," she said into the phone. The recruiter didn't even get the chance to ask, "So, how is that going?"

Mallard Fillmore

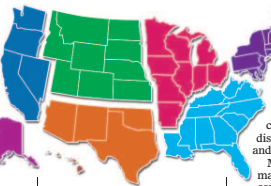
BY BRUCE TINSLEY



5 condors released

AZ VERMILLION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT — Five California condor fledglings hopped from a release pen in northern Arizona and tested the air of freedom with their huge wings.

The birds are the latest release of the endangered species in the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, just south of the Utah state line. The release adds to the wild population of the bird that two decades ago was on the verge of extinction.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Victims hiding addresses

RI PROVIDENCE — Secretary of State Matthew A. Brown wants to allow people deemed to be victims of domestic violence or hate crimes to hide their address from the public.

People would be able to shield their addresses in numerous state and local records including voting lists, business ownership papers, driver's licenses, property deeds, civil and criminal court files and professional licenses.

The only requirement of people seeking to hide their addresses would be to make a sworn statement before Brown's office that they are victims.

High-tech license

WV CHARLESTON — The state Division of Motor Vehicles is rolling out a high-tech driver's license later this year in an attempt to reduce fraud.

The new license will include fingerprint images, face-recognition technology and other security features.

Commissioner Doug Stump says all 21 DMV regional offices should have the new technology by October.

Rocket disappoints

AK ANCHORAGE — A rocket launched for aurora research from Poker Flat Research Range malfunctioned and crashed north of Fairbanks.

Wreckage from the rocket was spotted in the rocket range's impact zone in the White Mountains. Range manager Greg Walker would not give a specific location for the wreckage. Under normal conditions, the payload would have flown for 40 minutes, peaked above the Arctic Ocean coastline and fallen on the polar ice cap, Walker said.

The 70-foot, 2-inch four-stage Black Brant XII rocket reached an altitude of about 18 miles high and flew for five minutes before crashing.

High-tech trash can

NY NEW YORK — The city is testing a high-tech trash can that uses solar power to sense when it is full and then automatically compact the garbage inside.

The BigBelly can's tryout began Feb. 14 in Chinatown and then was moved to Tribeca on Feb. 28, city sanitation department spokeswoman Taryn Duckett said.

Duckett said it's too early to tell whether the functions are advertised. The city decided to try out BigBelly because manufacturer Westborough, Mass.-based Seahorse Power Co. Inc. offered it.

Finches dropping dead

MN ST. PAUL — Call it nature's nasty trick.

This winter, common redpolls — small red-capped finches that flock at feeders — have swarmed into Minnesota from Canada, delighting birdwatchers.

But in the past three weeks, birds have been dropping dead near feeders all over the state, victims of salmonella.

People are being urged to remove finch feeders, clean them with a mild bleach or vinegar solution and not replace them for a while to force the birds to forage more widely, lessening the spread of the disease.

Drug discount cards

OR SALEM — A new program designed to help Oregon's seniors save money on prescription drugs has begun mailing cards to those who signed up.

Program officials say thousands more are eligible.

The card allows seniors to purchase prescription drugs at negotiated discount prices from participating pharmacies.

Baby left at hospital

MA BOSTON — A newborn girl was surrendered in



Candle for cousin

Mercedes Bryant, 4, lights a candle for her missing cousin, Jessica Lunsford, during a candlelight vigil held in Morrow, Ohio, at the home of Angela Bryant, Lunsford's mother.

what officials are calling the first successful test of the safe haven law enacted last fall.

The healthy infant was turned in by a parent at an unspecified hospital in the Merrimack Valley, an official said. The baby was later discharged from the hospital and placed in a foster home.

Monteiro said no other information would be released because of privacy concerns. But she said the baby was the first surrendered since Oct. 29, when Massachusetts became the 47th state to allow parents to leave unwanted newborns at certain locations without legal ramifications.

Sprucing up rest areas

VA RICHMOND — Virginia lawmakers have earmarked \$20 million in funding to help spruce up or replace aging highway stops before Jamestown's 400th anniversary brings crowds of tourists to the state.

"We had to do something," said Sen. Charles R. Hawkins, R-Pittsylvania and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. "It just got to the point of being a disgrace. If you plan to invite people to your home, you have to give them a place to stop and rest."

For more than five years, people have complained about the condition of many of Virginia's 41 rest areas and welcome centers.

Lost Alamo flag

TX DALLAS — The only flag known to have survived the Battle of the Alamo has been found on display at a museum in Mexico, more than a decade after Mexican officials said they had lost it, a newspaper has reported.

Several flags reportedly flew at the Alamo during the March 1836 battle between a small band of Texas fighters and a Mexican army 10 times their number. All except one flag was destroyed.

More than a decade ago, Texas officials stepped up efforts to get the flag back, but the Mexicans said they had lost it.

A reporter from The Dallas Morning News recently found the flag at Mexico's National History Museum.

It now rests in a glass case alongside 19th-century rifles. The once-blue rectangle of silk has faded to dirty white, but the gold fringe is intact and an eagle still spreads over the words "God & Liberty."

Goat meat-cocaine trade

PA MOUNT PLEASANT — Four men stole, killed and butchered a goat so they could trade its meat for crack cocaine, police said.

Authorities charged the four men with theft, receiving stolen property, cruelty to animals and criminal conspiracy for the Dec. 24 incident in Bulksin Township, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

James Walter Albright, 37, dragged the 4-year-old pygmy goat from its pen with a rope and tied the animal to a shrub, where he and Charles W. Smith Jr., 20, killed the animal by beating its head with a hammer or a steel pipe, police said.



Pretty in pink

Two-year-old Haley Ho catches her umbrella in Palo Alto, Calif.



Waiting for spring

A rather round and robust robin sits in the afternoon sun looking for berries in the snow in Lancaster, Pa. The sight of robins has been leading some locals to hope for an early arrival of spring-like weather.



Just a little push

Mysha Heinen is pushed by her friends, Haley Haines left, and Alena Burnstein as the 9-year-old girls play on a swing in Prairie Village, Kan.



Cruising Daytona
A couple on a three-wheeled motorcycle cruise on Main Street in Daytona Beach, Fla. Bike Week 2005 is expected to draw half a million bikers to the ocean side city famous for its white sandy beaches.



Showing their spirit
Fans with faces painted with the United States flag cheer during a Davis Cup tennis match at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.



National anthem auditions
Chris Stafford, of Canton, Ohio, sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" inside an empty Jacobs Field as he, and others, audition for the chance to sing at a Cleveland Indians home game sometime this summer. The auditions were just one of a number of activities held at the stadium as part of an open house.

Flushed out by cops

AR FORT SMITH — Getting tanked has a whole new meaning for a woman on the lam.

Brandy Shante Moss, 19, decided that police wanting to talk to her about a domestic dispute complaint would never think to look in a septic tank.

They did.

Officer Danny Baker found Moss in her hideout and stepped on the tank to arrest her.

The tank collapsed on Moss, injuring her badly enough that she had to go to the hospital.

Baker and his colleagues responding to the call said they saw a man and a woman run from a house to an abandoned one nearby. The woman, Moss, found the septic tank behind the abandoned house.

After being treated, Moss was booked into the Sebastian County Jail on suspicion of fleeing apprehension and two counts of third-degree domestic battery. She also was charged with carrying a weapon and failure to comply with a court order.

Officers arriving at the home in Elkton, about 50 miles northeast of Baltimore, found her lying on a mattress surrounded by moldy food, excrement and a broken cane likely used to bang against the locked door, court papers said.

Dougherty was charged with involuntary manslaughter and abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult family member. He was ordered held at the county jail on \$350,000 bond, police said.

"It was one of the worst scenes I have ever seen in my 27 years of law enforcement," said Detective Sgt. Bernard Chiominto, of the Cecil County sheriff's office.

The daughters were placed in a foster home, Chiominto said.

Rare sheep sighting

WI ELKHORN — Game warden Tim Price had to see it to believe it when a woman reported she saw a wild bighorn sheep near the interstate in Walworth County.

"I thought she was a nut," Price said. "Ironically enough, that very next day I was on Peak Station Road and I thought, 'That's a bighorn ram.'"

The sheep has been seen numerous times since November roaming in Walworth County. It may be a wild bighorn or it may be another species of sheep. People have described it as a brown ram with curled horns and a white butt.

Norma Botma and her friend Lauri Paddock were driving to Milwaukee from Elkton on Dec. 16 when Paddock saw the animal near Walworth County Trunk D and Interstate 43.

"I said, 'It looks like a bighorn sheep,'" Botma recalled. "When we came home and told Lauri's husband, he thought we both had been drinking."

Snow record approaches

CO DENVER — Colorado is heading into the traditionally snowiest period of the year with its best snowpack since 1997. Recently, the statewide snowpack was at 109 percent of the 30-year average, the best for this time of year since the five-year drought began.

But the northwestern corner of the state remains on the national drought map. Ten states rely on the Colorado snowpack for water.

Budgetary success

VT MONTPELIER — School districts enjoyed moderate success at winning approval of their annual budgets at town meetings, according to Jeffrey Francis, executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association. Of 246 budgets that have been decided, 226 passed, 19 failed and consideration of one other was deferred. Another six budgets were reduced before they passed.

Pastor voted out

IN MARION — A pastor who insisted his first firing was invalid has again been voted out by members of the church. However, his attorney is questioning whether a handful of people who didn't vote could have changed the outcome.

Of 99 Grace Missionary Baptist Church members, 50 voted to remove the Rev. Ed McDowell, while 46 chose to retain him. Three members abstained.

Stories and photos from wire services

Beach takes pounding

NJ VENTNOR — A beach rebuilt last year as part of a \$24 million shore protection project has taken a pounding from recent storms. Waves have carved out 4-foot cliffs of sand from a barrier dune and damaged walkways and fences. Officials estimate that the storms removed about 300,000 cubic yards of sand, or a fifth of the total used in Ventnor.

Adoption scam

AL WETUMPKA — Cherish Tarbox and her mother, Jenny Lodge, pleaded guilty to using Tarbox's infant twins as bait in an adoption scam. Police said Tarbox, 20, and Lodge, 42, scammed five prospective adoptive couples out of more than \$17,000 by offering to allow them to adopt the twin boys if they paid for medical and other expenses.

Janitor leaves gifts

IN AMO — A janitor has left \$80,000 to the school where he worked almost 15 years. Jack Eggers, who died of a brain tumor in January 2004 at age 69, left more than \$200,000 to several causes, including Mill Creek West Elementary School. He retired in November 2003 and occasionally would visit to read to the children.

Husband charged

MD ELKTON — A husband was charged with his wife's death after police found her 81-pound body on a soiled mattress inside a bedroom where she had allegedly been confined for years.

John Joseph Dougherty, 52, had allegedly kept his wife, Mary Elizabeth Kilrain, 46, locked in a bedroom since she had an aneurysm in 1999 and began to constantly yell at her children, charging documents said.

He also allegedly told his daughters — ages 10, 13 and 16 — to lock their mother in the bedroom after they visited her, the court papers said.

Dougherty called police after one of his daughters tried to give Kilrain water and found her dead, police said.

Colorful skier

Harold Schmidt, dressed as "Enola Gay," dances down the course during a drag ski race-costume contest, part of "Ascend: the Winter Party at Lake Tahoe," in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie *** "The Linda Montano Story" (2000) George Segal, Elizabeth Mitchell	Dr. Phil	Jocody! Headline News	Hardball	PBA Bowling Ball Run Heat Classic: From Indianapolis (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Sweet Dreams	Jocody! Headline News
9:30	Sagwa-Siamess Cat							
10:00	Arthur (E)		(9-16) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNNews	The O'Reilly Factor	NBA Fastbreak	Best for Less	ESPNNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)	(14-5) Movie *** "My Cousin Vinny" (1996) Comedies, Jay P. Pinney, Robert Macchio. An inept lawyer tries to free his cousin from a DUI charge.	(17) General Hospital	Headline News	Fox and Friends First	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	The King of Queens	Movie *** "Martin and Lewis" (2002) Dramas Sean Hayes, Jeremy Northam
11:00	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Judge Judy	Today After Greg Kinnear: 10-day Style; Today's Kitchen.	American Morning		Griffinsden	The Simpsons
11:30	Stanley			The Simpsons			Charm'd! 'All Hell Breaks Loose'	The Simpsons
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Headline News			Strong Medicine "Drugs on the Loose"	Pacific Report
12:30	The Wiggles	Movie *** "Working Girl" (1988) Melanie Griffith. An ambitious Staten Island secretary moves up the ranks.	Today After Greg Kinnear: 10-day Style; Today's Kitchen.	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno			Any Day Now "Hope"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
13:00	Bob the Builder		Judge Judy	Headline News With David Letterman			Third Watch "September 10th"	The Late Show With David Letterman
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)			All Grown Up "Lucy 13"	FOX News	NASCAR Nation	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
14:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Strong Medicine "Drugs on the Loose"	The Late Show With David Letterman
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
15:00	Funnies Home Videos	(16-5) Movie *** "Gleaner" (1998) Glenn Ross (1992) Drama, Jack Lemmon, Alec Baldwin.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
15:30	Growing Pains "Jealousy"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
16:00	Pokemon "In the Pink"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
16:30	Yo-Gi-On! (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
17:00	Doug Doug's dog's old band.		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
18:30	Rugrats "Candace's Test"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
19:00	The Proud Family (E)	Movie *** "Along Came a Spider" (2001) Morgan Freeman. Alex Cross probes the kidnaping of a senator's daughter.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
19:30	The Amanda Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
20:00	Everwood "East Meets West"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
20:30	Sister, Sister "The Audition"	(16-5) Movie *** "The Matrix" (1999) Keanu Reeves. A computer hacker learns his world is a computer simulation.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
21:00	Sister, Sister "The Audition"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
21:30	The Cosby Show "Audition"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
22:00	Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
22:30	Touched by an Angel "Bar Mitzvah"	Movie *** "Thunderheart" (1992) Drama, Val Kilmer.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman
23:30			Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Show With David Letterman

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

00:00	Doug Doug's Brain Drain	(11-00) Movie *** "Thunderheart" (1992) Val Kilmer.	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power		Access Hollywood	Beast in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Beast in the Big Blue House
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(13-10) Movie *** "Bad Girls" (2004) Comedy, Melissa Joan White. Circumstances force two women to become outlaws.	Access Hollywood	Blue's Clues "Words" (E)	ABC World News Tonight	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Blue's Clues "Words" (E)
1:30	Rugrats		Access Hollywood	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Wheel of Fortune
1:50	The Proud Family (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
2:30	The Amanda Show		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
3:00	Everwood "East Meets West"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
3:30	Sister, Sister "The Audition"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
4:00	Sister, Sister "The Audition"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
4:30	Sesame Street (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
6:30	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
7:30	Bob the Builder		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
8:00	The Wiggles		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
8:30	Dora the Explorer "The Beach"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
9:00	Stanley		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
9:30	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
10:00	Arthur "The Blizzard" (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
11:00	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
11:30	Stanley "The Proud Couple"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
12:30	The Wiggles		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
13:00	Bob the Builder		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
14:00	Blue's Clues		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
15:00	Funnies Home Videos		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
15:30	Growing Pains		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
16:00	Pokemon "Stage Fight"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
16:30	Yo-Gi-On!		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
17:00	Doug Doug's wedding celebration.		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
18:30	Rugrats		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
19:00	Even Stevens		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
19:30	Kenan & Kel		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
20:00	Glimore Girls Lorelei and Emily sneak out of the health spa.		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
21:00	Depress: Next		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
21:30	Depress: Next		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
22:00	The Cosby Show		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
22:30	Home Improvement		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
23:00	Touched by an Angel "True Confessions"		Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil
23:30			Access Hollywood	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News	Women's College Basketball	Star Trek: Enterprise "Damage"	Dr. Phil



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FACES

Texas wallflower comes into bloom

BY SUSAN CARPENTER

Los Angeles Times

When Tift Merritt saw "Grammy" as the subject of e-mail after e-mail last December, her first reaction was, "Oh. Someone we know must have been nominated." The idea that she had been selected just didn't seem likely.

But there the 30-year-old Texas native was, in the big leagues, with her Southern-fried "Tambourine" competing for best country album against country institution Loretta Lynn and chart-toppers Tim McGraw, Keith Urban and Gretchen Wilson.

Known chiefly as a critics' darling, Merritt was clearly the dark horse in the race, so she wasn't surprised when Lynn was called on stage at Los Angeles' Staples Center Feb. 13 to pick up the Grammy — and not just because of Merritt's low profile.

The singer-songwriter may live south of the Mason-Dixon line and be signed to a Nashville label, but the strum and twang of "Tambourine" are leavened with soul and sprinklings of gospel in a style Merritt calls a "rock-soul throw-down."

If it is country music, it's heavily footnoted with complementary styles. The part of the country genre she most identifies with is its classic storytelling.

"That storytelling is what I'm concerned with," she explained over a cup of tea recently in a Hollywood hotel restaurant. "In a lot of ways, what feels so special about the nomination is that somebody thought beyond what it was."

"Tambourine" is the follow-up to Merritt's critically acclaimed 2002 debut, "Bramble Rose," a slower, more introspective record that stuck to her roots and clearly defined boundaries. More down-tempo than upbeat for most of its 51 minutes, the CD was a warm introduction to Merritt's fragile trill.

Reaves in tastemaker publications, from the New Yorker to Rolling Stone, helped keep Merritt on the road for a year, but it was during that time that she began to feel constrained by the tenor of her first batch of songs.

"Our live shows have always had a lot of energy," she said. "When we were touring with 'Bramble Rose,' I felt like what I wanted to do next was a show where every night I could come off stage feeling like I'd just left a part of myself (up there). I wanted to make something as sincere and genuine and from me, but I wanted to do it in a way

Country singer Tift Merritt has arrived

Texas native Tift Merritt earned a Grammy nomination for the colorful, soulful album "Tambourine."

Los Angeles Times

that was loud, more like church or a party."

She's succeeded, on the album and in her recent live shows. During a performance last month at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, backup singers and a quivering organ were perfect accompaniment to Merritt, who was as charismatic as a preacher. And some of her songs have such an uplifting spiritual tone that they would be welcome at a revival meeting.

Oozing Southern charm with her quick wit and casual banter, Merritt had an easier time than many in winning over the traditionally stoic L.A. crowd.

Here's an artist who clearly loves the stage and appreciates the rapt attention of

her audience, but it took years before she felt comfortable in front of a crowd.

Billing her for the first time as Tift Merritt, "Bramble Rose" was recorded with the same musicians she'd played with for six years.

But the singer wanted to take her sound to a new level with "Tambourine," and she did it with the help of producer George Drakoulis, who has worked with other rock/country hybrids, including the Black Crowes and Tom Petty.

Musically, "Tambourine" leans heavily on rock and soul, but lyrically it's pure country. Before pursuing music Merritt was an aspiring fiction writer, and it shows

in songs that could be novellas if they weren't delivered with a guitar.

All of her lyrics are complicated human dramas, most of them romantic. In stories that unfold on buses and in hotels, they explore love from all angles.

"I think it's really easy for all of us to preoccupy ourselves with easily available dramas that are less than the truth," Merritt explained. "I try to write about what's important, to say what I really mean. I don't have the kind of mind that can take everything in at once. I want to sit with something and think about it. The details are what make things passionate. You can't see them if you're too close."

Cher sues music publisher

Singer and actress Cher is suing Warner/Chappell Music Inc. for breach of contract on claims that it failed to pay royalties estimated at more than \$250,000.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleges that the music publisher has not paid song and performance royalties for the last four years.

The other plaintiffs include Chastity Bono, the daughter of Cher and her late husband Sonny Bono, and Christy Bono, Bono's daughter from his first marriage.

Other plaintiffs are Mary Bono-Baxley and her children Chianna and Cesare Bono. It was not immediately clear whether she is Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, who married ex-minor league baseball player Glenn Baxley in 2001. Singing duo Cher and Sonny Bono had reached written agreements in 1965 and 1966 for recording services with York Records and Atlantic Recording Corporation that required them to pay royalties and provide an accounting of

the payments, the suit said.

Oprah on Vanity Fair's best dressed list

Oprah Winfrey's La Perla sweats — and the rest of her self-described "classic, fun and relaxed" look — has earned her a spot on the Vanity Fair best dressed list for a second year in a row.

"The key to elegance is not just wearing beautiful things but making what you're wearing come alive," she tells the magazine for its April issue.

Also on the list again are Sofia Coppola, Kate Moss, Queen Rania of Jordan and actress Sienna Miller. Miller says Edie Sedgwick is her fashion icon, and she picks Jimi Hendrix. Jim Morrison and fiancée Jude Law as the most stylish men.



Winfrey

Law, who says he looks like a "messy schoolteacher," also made the list, along with Andre 3000, newscaster Anderson Cooper, musician Charlie Watts and director Wes Anderson.

Sri Lankan musicians trying to raise funds

Sri Lankan musicians are trying to rally stars such as Elton John, Madonna and Ricky Martin to record an album to raise relief funds for countries hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Asoka Gunawardena, spokesman for United Artists of Sri Lanka, said the group hopes to release "One Nation, One World, One Love" on March 26.

The Sri Lanka group has contacted Western music industry representatives to try rallying stars to contribute to the 18-song album, he said. Money from CD sales will be used to build schools in tsunami-ravaged countries and for a monument in Sri Lanka.

From The Associated Press

Horoscope

Do a diagnostic report on your life. Abundant Pisces energy allows for a deeper understanding of what's going well and what still squirms attention. The relationships that need healing loom large, asking to be addressed. We're working on many levels, but the most profound is the spiritual realm, where changes can take place in the blink of an eye.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 8) This year, you stand in what you believe. Loved ones crave this stronger side of you, and you may even need to draw new boundaries. Raises or other financial perks show up in the next four weeks. You'll make a lifestyle improvement before the spring is over. September could bring marriage. Gemini and Aquarius are fabulous partners.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You may encounter some form of ageism or perpetrate this prejudice upon your own psyche. You're not too old to pursue your dream. Martha Graham danced professionally at 75 and choreographed through 95.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Attitude drives production—the more you produce, the better you feel. Your winning posture magically connects you to serendipitous opportunities that would not be available to someone of lesser enthusiasm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Working diligently has brought you results, so you'll continue. But there's no reason to be hard on yourself in the process. Turn nasty inner dialogue in a new direction, or it drags down your progress.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You may not be communicating as fully as you think you are. Ask others to parrot back your message to see if it's really getting through. Every person you deal with needs a different communication approach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Achievement isn't easy, but it is simple. You tell yourself what to do, and then,

you do it. As long as you're judging yourself by your achievements lately, you may as well add something impressive to your list.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Press "pause" on that chaotic realm of your life—you can always get back to it later. In the meantime, return to basics. Talk to a friend, take the dog for a walk, or listen to music. The simplest things give you the most pleasure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Take the initiative. When you dare to lead, even if you are only leading yourself, you earn respect. You may be tempted to ask how you can help, but you won't get answers. Don't ask just do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Opinionated people are all around you, making you wonder how to weigh in. Write your manifesto. Research shows that those who have developed their own personal and unique beliefs live longer, more satisfying lives.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

If you are being neglected, it's time to stand up and say so. Not being heard leads to frustration, hurt, anger and anxiety. Being heard leads to effectiveness, well-being, loving exchanges and happiness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Someone is trying to love you, and you are not allowing it. Why is that? Let go of past fears. Hanging on to them only increases the likelihood of a repeat performance. Your connection with a Taurus is strong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It's difficult to share reality when you're just not getting where the other person is coming from. Though you are disconnected from the situation that means so much to your significant one, try hard to understand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Life's puddles can be sidestepped if you watch where you are going. But if you stare only at your destination, you'll never get safely to your goal. Divert your attention to something grand, whimsical or interesting.

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Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



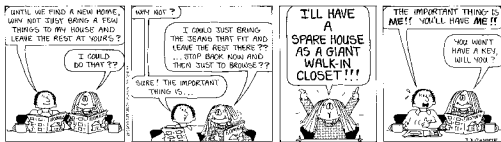
Jump Start



Zits



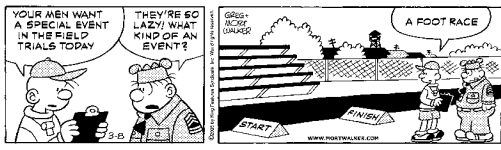
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



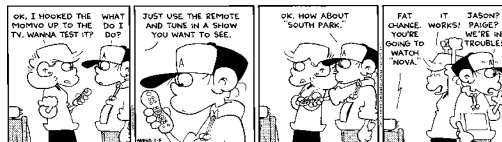
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



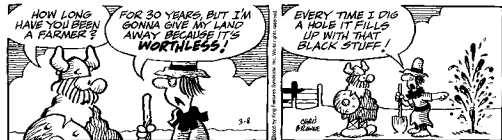
Blondie



Dilbert



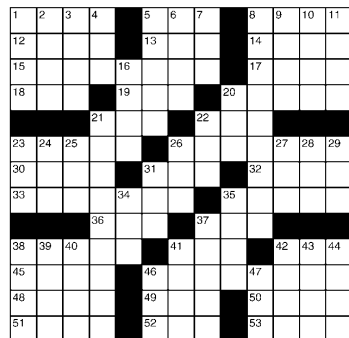
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Unfortunate occurrence
- 5 Clamorous partner of 13-Across
- 8 Injure
- 12 Chaplin's widow
- 13 See S-Across
- 14 Cookie name
- 15 Small telescope
- 17 Hideous
- 18 Whammy
- 19 Frequently
- 20 Victims
- 21 Lemieux milieu
- 22 Binge
- 23 "Witness" sect
- 30 Actress Moore
- 31 Shack
- 32 Met melody
- 33 California crop
- 35 Song of praise
- 36 Birthstone, e.g.
- 37 More, to Manuel
- 38 Obey Alan Funt
- 41 "—voyage!"
- 42 Water (Fr.)
- 45 Zhivago's love
- 46 Abolitionist

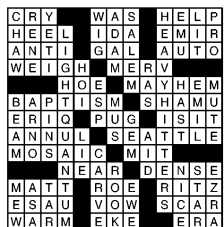
Down

- 1 "Poppycock!"
- 2 Easy stride
- 3 Layered quartet
- 4 Humorist
- 5 Rub the wrong way
- 6 Reddish-brown color
- 7 "Absolutely"
- 8 It measures time
- 9 Incite
- 10 Hinge (on)
- 11 Santa's load
- 16 Nettle's home
- 20 Crony
- 21 Mica
- 22 Stick out like a sore thumb
- 23 Big bother
- 24 Mal de —

25 "—Yankee ..."

- 26 Clear the tables
- 27 Distinct period
- 28 Before, in verse
- 29 Muppet eagle
- 31 Height of fashion
- 34 "Holy cow!"
- 35 Throe
- 37 Saddle horse
- 38 Bridge cop
- 39 Jerry Herman heroine
- 40 Rainbow
- 41 Dog's treat
- 42 Apiece
- 43 Tennis legend
- 44 Secondhand
- 46 Chip topper
- 47 Part of UNLV

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-8

CRYPTOQUIP

BD H KARY ADBBXN LEJPNV
VAIP. B KJNREWN BY IAETV
TAAF TBFN H XHRN AD
LTHXFWHBT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING AN INSECT WAS SINGING WITH CLOSED LIPS, MIGHT IT BE CALLED A HUMBUG?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O

Confident Smoltz makes transition back to starter

The Associated Press

John Smoltz threw the first pitch of a game instead of its last for the first time since 2001. Kevin Brown made his first pain-free start since signing with the Yankees before last season.

After three stellar years as Atlanta's closer, Smoltz made a triumphant return to the starting rotation and pitched two scoreless innings Sunday during the Braves' 8-7 victory over a New York Mets split squad in Kissimmee, Fla.

"Same Smoltzie," manager Bobby Cox said. "Just got to build up some endurance, that's all. He's going to fit right in with all the other starters."

The 1996 Cy Young winner allowed two soft singles and struck out one against a watered-down Mets lineup. It was an impressive spring debut, especially for a 37-year-old pitcher who was switched to the bullpen after three elbow operations — the Braves thought the move would prolong his career.

"It's funny how Randy Johnson's not old, Roger Clemens is not old, but a guy who's had four surgeries becomes old real quick," Smoltz said. "It's not an experiment. It's not something I haven't done before. But I understand the magnitude of what it could be."

At Tampa, Fla., Brown struggled through the first inning, allowing a run and three hits. Then he made some adjustments and followed with two scoreless innings in New York's 6-5 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

"At least I felt like I was moving OK. I didn't feel it was locked up. It wasn't an issue," Brown said.

Brown's health could be a major factor for the Yankees. He said he didn't feel right all of last year in going 10-6 with a 4.09 ERA, and the former All-Star missed most of September when he punched a wall and broke his left hand. Then he was shelved by the Boston Red Sox in Game 7 of the ALCS.

Spring training

He threw 53 pitches against the Reds, allowing four hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

"I loved what I saw," catcher Jorge Posada said.

Gary Sheffield, another injured Yankees star, made his debut.

Sheffield, recovering from an offseason operation on his left shoulder, went 2-for-3 with a pair of RBI singles. The Yankees started their regular lineup for the first time this year — an All-Star at every position.

"Just to know that you can play a baseball game without feeling the agony or the pain I had last year, I can't really explain it," Sheffield said. "I just know when I'm healthy what I can do."

In other games:

Red Sox 5, Phillies 4: At Fort Myers, Fla., Hanley Ramirez, Boston's top minor leaguer, started a triple play in the top of the sixth inning. Boston's new shortstop, Edgar Renteria, homered off Amaury Telemaco. Randy Wolf, limited to 23 starts last year by tendinitis in his left elbow, allowed three hits in two scoreless innings in his first start of spring training.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 1: At Jupiter, Fla., A.J. Burnett allowed four runs in two innings for Florida. Cardinals starter Chris Carpenter hit a two-run double and allowed two hits in three innings, striking out two. Jim Edmonds hit an RBI single for St. Louis.

Indians 2, Tigers 2 (10): At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia was scratched from his start because he strained a right abdominal muscle while warming up. The left-hander was replaced by Cliff Lee, who allowed one hit and struck out two in two scoreless innings. Chris Shelton had three of the Tigers' seven hits.

National A's 9, Astros 4: At Ventura, Fla., Washington's Zach Day made his first start in seven months, hitting the game's first

batter and allowing two solo homers. Brad Wilkerson homered for the second straight game for the Nationals.

Mets (ss) 14, Nationals (ss) 5: At Port St. Lucie, Victor Zambrano gave up three hits and two runs in 2 1-3 innings for New York. Jose Reyes finished 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Nationals starter Mike Hincley gave up six runs — five earned — and eight hits in two innings.

Devil Rays 5, Pirates 3: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay's Aubrey Huff had an RBI double, scored a run and caught a drive by Ty Wigginton against the left-field wall to preserve a tie. Ryan Voelgelong allowed three runs in three innings for Pittsburgh.

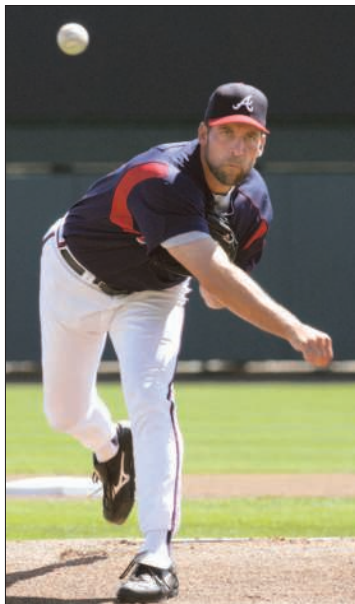
Giants 10, Cubs 1: At Scottsdale, Ariz., Omar Vizquel homered and singled for his first hits in a San Francisco uniform. Cubs starter Jimmy Anderson gave up five singles and three runs in the first inning.

Rangers 16, Rockies 1: At Tucson, Ariz., Texas prospect Adrian Gonzalez hit his second home run of spring training, this one off Shawn Chacon, who is moving back to the starting rotation after a difficult year as Colorado's closer. He allowed three runs and three hits and threw a wild pitch in two innings.

Orioles 4, Dodgers 2: Vero Beach, Fla., Scott Erickson, making a bid for the No. 5 spot in the Dodgers' rotation, pitched three innings of no-hit ball. Orioles starter Rodrigo Lopez also pitched three shutout innings in his first start of spring training.

Padres 9, Mariners 6 (10): At Peoria, Ariz., Xavier Nady and Jesse Garcia hit San Diego's first homers of the spring. Ichiro Suzuki and Randy Winn had RBI triples for Seattle.

Brewers 9, Royals 6: At Surprise, Ariz., Carlos Lee hit two home runs and drove in two runs for Milwaukee. Prince Fielder



Atlanta Braves' John Smoltz works against the New York Mets in a spring training game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Sunday.

went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs. Rick Helling, who spent all of last season in the minors, pitched two shutout innings for the Brewers.

Kansas City's Zack Greinke allowed seven runs and seven hits — four for extra bases.

Angels 17, Athletics 4: At Phoenix, Casey Kotchman had a two-run double among his five RBIs. Bartolo Colon, making his first start of the spring for Los Angeles, struck out two in two innings. He gave up a run and two hits.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 5: At Dume-

lin, Fla., 2004 Cy Young winner Johan Santana allowed a hit in two innings for Minnesota. The 2003 winner, Roy Halladay, gave up two runs and four hits for Toronto. The Twins' Todd Dunwoody had three hits, including a double and solo homer off Halladay.

Diamondbacks 8, White Sox 3: At Tucson, Ariz., Javier Vazquez threw three strong innings for Arizona, giving up one run and two hits while striking out three.

Fellow newcomer Troy Glaus drove in a pair of runs.

Jermaine Dye hit his first homer as a member of the White Sox.

Selig: No changes to record book for suspected steroid use

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Steroids or not, baseball's record book won't be changing.

Commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday that no records will be taken away from players suspected of steroid use.

"That would be unfair to do that," Selig said before a game between the Oakland Athletics and Los Angeles Angels. "It's fairness to those players, no one has been convicted of anything. And we can't turn history back."

"My job is to protect the integrity of the game. Each era, each decade has had situations where people said there were unfair advantages."

Also Sunday, Rep. Tom Davis confirmed reports that the House Government Reform Committee is prepared to subpoena players and officials who turn down invitations to appear at a March 17 hearing on baseball's steroids policy.

Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro, Frank Thomas, Selig and union head Donald Fehr are among those who have been invited, along with baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers.

"We'll use the subpoena to get them there if that's what we have to do," Davis, the committee chairman, told CBS News.

Schmidt: Other factors boosting HRs

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Mike Schmidt refused to blame steroids for the increase in

home runs in the major leagues — or for his diminishing stature on the career homer list.

"Leave steroids out of it," Schmidt said Sunday. "There's a simple explanation why the home run totals are what they are, and the guys that are hitting would agree with me — it's park size, hard baseballs and hard hitters."

Since the Hall of Fame third baseman retired in 1989 with the seventh-most home runs (548), he has been passed by four players — Barry Bonds (703), Mark McGwire (583), Sammy Sosa (574) and Rafael Palmeiro (551).

Schmidt estimates the smaller ballpark and the equipment help elite power hitters add 10-12 home runs more per season than those of his generation.

Indians' Miller out until June

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Pitcher Adam Miller, regarded as the Cleveland Indians' top prospect, will be sidelined until at least June with a strained right elbow.

An MRI exam showed a strained ligament in his throwing arm, and he won't be allowed to throw for six weeks. Another MRI then will be taken to determine if he can be cleared for a four-to-six week throwing program, said John Farrell, the team's director of player development.

Farrell said Sunday surgery does not appear likely.

Miller, drafted in the first round in 2003, went a combined 10-6 at two levels of Class A ball in 2004. The 20-year-old right-hander's fastball was timed at 100 mph last summer with Kingston in the Carolina League championship series.

MLB
briefs

Men's conference tournament scoreboard

America East

Friday, March 4
 Mid-Brooklyn College 76, New Hampshire 73
 Stony Brook 66, Albany 60
Saturday, March 5
 Binghamton 70, Albany 60
 Vermont 76, Boston University 61
 UConn 69, Stony Brook 60
 Maine 47, Middlebury 45
Sunday, March 6
 Vermont 76, Binghamton 59
 Northeastern 67, Middlebury 52
Saturday, March 12
 Northeastern at Vermont

Atlantic Coast

Thursday, March 10
 Maryland vs. Clemson
 North Carolina 53, vs. Florida 32
 Miami vs. Virginia 31
Friday, March 11
 North Carolina vs. Maryland/Clemson
 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech
 Wake Forest vs. N.C. State/Florida 32
 Duke vs. Miami/Virginia
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Atlantic Sun

Thursday, March 3
 Gardner-Webb 64, Troy 62
 Central Florida 81, Mercer 68
 Belmont 67, Georgia State 61
 Jacksonville 69, Jacksonville 61
Friday, March 4
 Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76
 Central Florida 70, Belmont 62
Saturday, March 5
 Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54

Atlantic 10

Wednesday, March 9
 Richmond vs. Rhode Island
 Massachusetts vs. La Salle
 Fordham vs. Duquesne
 Dayton vs. St. Bonaventure
Thursday, March 10
 Saint Joseph's vs. Richmond/Rhode Island
 Xavier vs. Massachusetts/La Salle
 Geo. Washington vs. Fordham/Duquesne
 Temple vs. Dayton/St. Bonaventure
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Big East

Wednesday, March 9
 West Virginia vs. Providence
 Georgetown vs. Seton Hall
 Notre Dame vs. Rutgers
Thursday, March 10
 Boston College vs. W. Virginia/Providence
 Kentucky vs. Pittsburgh
 Connecticut vs. Georgetown/Seton Hall
 Syracuse vs. Purdue/Boston College
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Big Sky

Saturday, March 5
 Montana 58, Eastern Washington 48
 Weber State 74, Sacramento State 71
Tuesday, March 8
 Montana State 71
 Portland State vs. Weber St.
Wednesday, March 9
 Championship

Big South

Tuesday, March 1
 Charleston Southern 66, Coker 60
 High Point 58, N.C. Asheville 53 OT
 Asheville 74, Coastal Carolina 67
 Birmingham-Southern 69, Radford 40
 Western 79, Birmingham-Southern 46
Thursday, March 3
 Charleston Southern 58, High Point 55
 Western 79, Birmingham-Southern 46
Saturday, March 5
 Championship

Big Ten

Thursday, March 10
 Northwestern vs. Michigan
 Iowa vs. Purdue
 Wisconsin vs. Penn State
Friday, March 11
 Illinois vs. Northwestern/Michigan
 Minnesota vs. Indiana
 Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Big 12

Thursday, March 10
 Missouri 70, Nebraska 60
 Iowa State vs. Baylor
 Texas A&M vs. Kansas State
 Texas Tech vs. Colorado
Friday, March 11
 Oklahoma vs. Missouri/Nebraska
 Texas Tech vs. Iowa State/Baylor
 Kansas vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State
 Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech/Colorado
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Big West

Wednesday, March 9
 UC Irvine vs. Idaho
 Long Beach State vs. Santa Barbara
Thursday, March 10
 Cal Fullerton vs. Lower Merion/Winner
 Cal Northridge vs. higher-seeded winner
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championships

Colonial Athletic

Friday, March 4
 William & Mary 68, James Madison 54
 Old Dominion 66, William & Mary 51
Saturday, March 5
 Old Dominion 74, Delaware 61
 N.C. Wilmington 60, George Mason 47
Sunday, March 6
 Old Dominion 72, Hofstra 58
 vs. Commonwealth College vs. N.C. Wilmington 45
Monday, March 7
 Old Dominion vs. VA. Commonwealth

Conference USA

Thursday, March 3
 Texas Christian vs. Marquette
 DePaul vs. Tulane
 Cincinnati vs. Saint Louis
 Houston vs. South Florida
Friday, March 4
 Louisville vs. TCU/Marquette
 Alabama-Birmingham vs. DePaul/Tulane
 Charlotte vs. Memphis/Saint Louis
 Charlotte vs. Houston/South Florida
Saturday, March 5
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 12
 Championship

Horizon League

Friday, March 4
 Wright St. 61, Butler 57
 Loyola of Chicago 70, Youngstown St. 75
 Illinois 64, Cleveland 65
Friday, March 4
 Detroit 61, Wright 58
 Loyola of Chicago 81, Ill.-Chicago 81
Saturday, March 5
 Detroit 61, Wisc. Green Bay 59
 Wis.-Milwaukee 54, Loyola of Chicago 76
Friday, March 5
 Detroit vs. Wisc.-Milwaukee
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Metro Atlantic

Friday, March 4
 Canisius 68, Siena 53
 Manhattan 88, Loyola, Md. 67
 St. Peter's 73
 Rider 79, Canisius 66
Saturday, March 5
 Fairfield 62, Manhattan 66
 Niagara 69, Iona 67
 Rider 76, Fairfield 74
Sunday, March 6
 Niagara vs. Rider
Monday, March 7
 Championship

Mid-American

Monday, March 7
 Marshall at Ohio
 Central Michigan at Kent State
 Eastern Michigan at Akron
 Northern Illinois at Buffalo
 Ball State at Cleveland
Tuesday, March 8
 Toledo vs. Northern Illinois/Akron
 W. Michigan vs. E. Michigan/Akron
 Miami (Ohio) vs. Ball State/Bowling Green
 Ohio/Marshall vs. Kent State/C. Michigan
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Mid-Continent

Saturday, March 5
 Oral Roberts 82, Southern 69
 Oakland, Mich. 67, Mo.-Kansas City 54
 IUPUI-Indianapolis 70, W. Illinois 62
 Chicago State 72, Valparaiso 29
Monday, March 7
 Oral Roberts vs. IUPUI-Indianapolis
 Oakland, Mich. vs. Chicago 25
Tuesday, March 8
 Championship

Mid-Eastern Athletic

Monday, March 7
 Morgan St. vs. Mid-Eastern Athletic
 Florida A&M vs. Howard
Tuesday, March 8
 Bethune-Cookman vs. North Carolina A&T
 Delaware St. vs. lowest-seeded winner
 Hampton vs. middle-seeded winner
Thursday, March 10
 South Carolina 53, Southern 49
 Coppin vs. lowest-seeded winner
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Missouri Valley

Friday, March 4
 Indiana 56, Bradley 51
 Drake 62, Bradley 51
Saturday, March 5
 Southern Illinois 64, 49
 Southwest Missouri 70, Northern Iowa 62
 Indiana 57, 52
 Creighton 69, Illinois 52
Sunday, March 6
 SW Missouri 65, Southern Illinois 61
 Creighton 69, Illinois 52
Monday, March 7
 SW Missouri vs. Creighton

Mountain West

Thursday, March 10
 UNLV vs. Colorado
 New Mexico vs. Brigham Young
 Air Force vs. San Diego St.
Friday, March 11
 UNLV/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming
 New Mexico/DU vs. Air Force/San Diego St.
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Northeast

Thursday, March 3
 Monmouth, N.J. 54, C. Connecticut 53
 Fairleigh Dickinson 51, St. Francis, N.Y. 60
 Wagner 69, Robert Morris 65

Long Island U. 76, St. Francis, Pa. 67
 Wagner 63, Monmouth 51
 Fairleigh Dickinson 70, Long Island U. 62
Friday, March 4
 Championship
 Wagner vs. Fairleigh Dickinson

Ohio Valley

Tuesday, March 1
 Tennessee Tech 72, Eastern Illinois 68
 Austin Peay 71, Sanford 50
 Eastern Kentucky 74, Tennessee 58
 Southeast Missouri 63, Murray St. 58
Friday, March 4
 Austin Peay 67, Tennessee Tech 58
 Eastern Kentucky 69, SE Missouri 52
Saturday, March 5
 Championship
 Eastern Kentucky 53, Austin Peay 46

Pac-10

Thursday, March 10
 Arizona vs. California
 UCLA vs. Oregon
 Washington vs. Arizona State
 Stanford vs. Washington State
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Patriot

Friday, March 4
 Lehigh 77, Colgate 50
 North Carolina 68, Army 42
 American 88, Navy 83 OT
 South 70, Lafayette 34
Saturday, March 5
 Holy Cross 57, Lehigh 58
 Bucknell 53, American 35
Friday, March 5
 Bucknell at Holy Cross
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Southeastern

Thursday, March 10
 South Carolina vs. Mississippi
 Mississippi State vs. Georgia
 Arkansas vs. Tennessee
 Vanderbilt vs. Auburn
Friday, March 11
 Alabama vs. South Carolina/Mississippi
 Florida vs. Mississippi State/Georgia
 Kentucky vs. Arkansas/Tennessee
 LSU vs. Vanderbilt
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Southern

Wednesday, March 2
 Elon 64, Wake Forest 60
 North Carolina 68, Wake Forest 59
 App State 67, Furman 64
Thursday, March 3
 Davidson 67, Clemson 59
 N.C.-Greensboro 73, Georgia Southern 71
 Charleston 66, App State 66
 Appalachian St. 63, Charleston 60
 N.C.-Greensboro 73, Davidson 68
 Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 51
Saturday, March 5
 Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 52

Southland

Thursday, March 3
 Texas-Arlington at Texas State (L.A.) St.
 Texas State at Texas Southern Louisiana
 McNeese St. at Sam Houston
 Lamar at Southeastern Louisiana
Friday, March 4
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Southwestern Athletic

Thursday, March 10
 Grambling Southern
 Alabama St. vs. Prairie View A&M
 Mississippi Valley vs. Jackson St.
 Alabama A&M vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Sun Belt

Friday, March 4
 Fla. International 61, North Carolina 57
 Arkansas 74, North Texas 76
 Middle Tennessee 72, New Orleans 63
Saturday, March 5
 Fla. International 61, Arkansas 57
 Denver 64, Arkansas 57
 Western Kentucky 78, New Orleans 67
 Louisiana 71, Middle Tennessee 67
Monday, March 7
 Denver vs. Kentucky
 Fla. International vs. La-Lafayette
Tuesday, March 8
 Championship

West Coast

Friday, March 4
 Pepperdine 81, Loyola Marymount 79
 San Francisco 65, Portland 60
 San Diego 86, Pepperdine 80
 Santa Clara 67, Santa Clara 67
Sunday, March 6
 Gonzaga 90, San Diego 86
 Santa Clara 67, Santa Clara 67
Monday, March 7
 Gonzaga vs. St. Mary's, Calif.

Western Athletic

Tuesday, March 8
 Hawaii vs. San Jose State
 Boise State vs. Tulsa
Wednesday, March 9
 Boise State vs. Utah
 Boise State vs. Southern Methodist
 Nevada vs. Boise State/Tulsa
Thursday, March 10
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

It's two shots at the key as Wake beats N.C. State

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Chris Paul's first-half shot nearly overshadowed his last-second basket to beat North Carolina State. The sophomore hit a buzzer-beating runner to lift fourth-ranked Wake Forest just the North Carolina State SS-53 on Sunday night, keeping the Demon Deacons in contention for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

But Paul also faced plenty of questions afterward about his low blow to Wolfpack star Julius Hodge.

Either way, the feisty point guard was the center of attention.

Paul finished with nine points and six assists for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won 10 of 11 and tied school records for victories overall and in the league.

With the Wolfpack (17-12, 7-9) leading SS-50, Justin Gray nailed a tying three-pointer right in front of the Wake Forest bench with 12.8 seconds left.

But Paul tried to answer, but his hurried three-pointer fell well short of the rim and out of bounds, giving the Demon Deacons possession with 4.2 seconds left.

Paul did the rest. He inbounded the ball to Vytas Danielius, who sent it right back. Paul then weaved through the interception. Wolfpack defenders, bounced off a bump from Atsur and launched a fadeaway shot from about 12 feet.

The ball swished through the net at the horn, sending the Demon Deacons onto the court for a celebration — and giving Paul the last word on a tasty night in Raleigh.

In a play that set the tone the rest of the night, Paul gave Hodge a harsh parking gift on senior night, hitting him with a low blow during a battle underneath the basket. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, fell to the court with 12-48 left in the first half.

With Hodge down, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK — and to yell toward Paul on the Wake Forest bench. Steve Hodge walked off the court, and arena security soon instructed him to leave the court area.

Once Hodge got up, he angrily yelled and gestured toward the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way back to the bench.

Paul and the two were just tangled up.

"I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "It was just the heat of the game. I've got too much respect for him to try to pop him on senior night."

Told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay."

The question is whether Paul will face any kind of sanction

N.C. State's Julius Hodge (24) and Wake Forest's Chris Paul contest a rebound late in Sunday night's game. Wake won 55-53.

from the league for the blow. Hodge mentioned his suspension as a freshman for an elbow he threw against Maryland's Steve Blake, which was caught on film and led to a one-game suspension.

"He punched me in the groin and the ref saw it," Hodge said. "I got suspended for that (as a freshman)... I never play dirty like that."

Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said he didn't see the incident. N.C. State coach Herb Denekas said he had reviewed replays of the incident, but declined comment.

"I think the replay is going to have a few minutes for me tonight," he said.

A few minutes after returning to the game, Hodge was whistled for a technical foul when he gave Paul a shove after he was fouled in the post.

From there, Paul was booted loudly every time he touched the ball, and N.C. State fans began chanting "Dirty Deacons." Wake Forest shot just 29 percent in the second half, going without an field goal for 10 minutes, but he pulled it out on high shots by Paul and Gray.

And on the same day that No. 1 Illinois, No. 3 Kentucky, No. 6 Duke and No. 7 Kansas lost, the Demon Deacons saw an opportunity.

"We thought that might've opened the door a little bit more (for a No. 1 seed) and gave us a chance right here to make a move up," said Gray, who had 15 points.

Eric Ertimov scored 19 points to lead N.C. State, which is trying for its fourth straight NCAA bid.

Closing the deal

Down nine in the closing minutes, North Carolina scores the last 11 points to top Duke for ACC title

By KEITH PARSONS
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina's players and coaches took turns at the top of a ladder, celebrating an Atlantic Coast Conference title by cutting down the nets.

While certainly not unprecedented, the scene was a bit surreal for the end of the regular season.

"I'm big on letting kids celebrate," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "We will be criticized for it. Somebody's not going to like it and that's just part of it. I think it's OK in college athletics to let kids celebrate."

Williams did the same for the majority of his nine conference titles at Kansas, and needed only two seasons to bring the tradition to North Carolina.

Freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 game-closing run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke on Sunday.

North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), playing without the ill Rashad McCants for the fourth straight game, won its first ACC regular-season championship since 1993, which was also the last time the Tar Heels won a national championship.

"It's been a long journey," said senior Jackie Manuel, one of three players left from a team that lost 20 of 28 games three years ago. "To be honest, I didn't really know if we could do it. You really appreciate the highs when you've been at the bottom and seen the worst."

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds, and none was more important than that last rebound.

After J.J. Redick missed a long three-point attempt that would have won it for the Blue Devils, teammate Daniel Ewing had a final chance from just inside the arc.

His shot was short, and May

"I'm big on letting kids celebrate. We will be criticized for it. Somebody's not going to like it and that's just part of it. I think it's OK in college athletics to let kids celebrate."

Roy Williams
North Carolina coach

leaped high for the carom. He cradled the ball in his hand while the clock ran out, then hurled it into the stands. Hundreds of the 22,125 fans — the largest crowd ever at the Dean E. Smith Center — rushed the court to celebrate only the third Tar Heels victory over their Tobacco Road rival in the past 16 meetings.

"I've never experienced anything like that, and it's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life," May said. "For me, it feels good, because I've never beaten them. Finally, to get an opportunity, it feels good."

Shelden Williams had 25 points and six blocks for Duke (22-5, 11-5), which played without guard Sean Dockery for the third straight game. Redick scored all 17 of his points in the first half.

"We have to close the chapter to this book, the regular season, and our guys were in every ball game," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I'm proud of them."

The Blue Devils broke from a tie at 64 with a 9-0 run capped by a three-pointer by Lee Melchionni with 3:07 left. That was his fifth three-pointer of the second half.

"I love the competitiveness of our team when we were down nine inside three minutes," Roy Williams said. "I told them that if they were to make a total commitment to every possession on the defensive end and every possession on the offensive end, we would still have a chance still at the end."

Jawad Williams stopped the Tar Heels' drought with a tip-in and Marvin Williams added two free throws to make it 73-68. On the other end, DeMarcus Nelson missed the front end of a 1-and-1, and May powered inside for a three-point play to cut the margin to two.

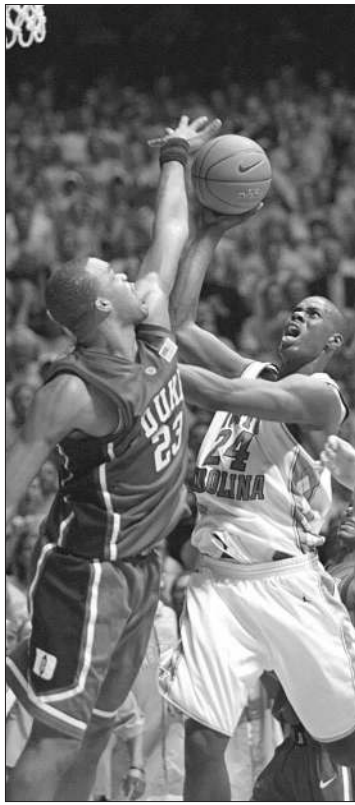
"We played hard and pushed hard for the majority of the second half," Shelden Williams said. "All of a sudden, we got a little cushion and laid off some, and had a few turnovers. Carolina was able to convert on those and get the momentum."

Later, North Carolina point guard Raymond Felton had a chance to tie it, but his runner from the lane rattled around the rim before bouncing out. Then Ewing, the lone senior on the court for the Blue Devils, lost the ball near midcourt, and Felton grabbed it and quickly called a timeout with 27 seconds left.

"That was probably the play of the game," May said. Felton drove to the basket and was fouled by Nelson. He swished the first free throw to make it 73-72.

His second rebound off the rim, and after a brief scramble for the ball, Marvin Williams grabbed it and quickly shot over Duke walk-on Patrick Johnson. The shot banked in as he was fouled, and his free throw capped the furious rally.

"You've got to have the mentality to bear down," Melchionni said. "We shot one free throw in the last three minutes with a nine-point lead, and that's unacceptable. You can't do that and win a game."



North Carolina's Marvin Williams, right, gets off the game-winning shot over Duke's Shelden Williams on Sunday. North Carolina won 75-73.

Florida's long wait is over after beating Kentucky

The Associated Press

GAINEVILLE, Fla. — After coming up empty eight times, Florida's David Lee was finally able to enjoy a victory over Kentucky.

The senior forward jumped on a court-side table while the rest of his team celebrated the Gators' 53-52 upset on Sunday, the outcome sealed by Anthony Robinson's two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

"That was four years in the making right there," Lee said.

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak against the Southeastern Conference bully and probably ended the third-ranked Wildcats' hopes of getting a top seed in the NCAA tournament.

Men's Top 25 Roundup

"It was the greatest win of my life," the Gators' Matt Walsh said.

Roberson, the league's leading scorer, stripped the ball from Patrick Sparks with about 12 seconds to play and Florida trailing 52-51.

Sparks compounded his miscue by fouling Roberson, an 88 percent free-throw shooter who calmly converted both shots. He finished with 21 points.

Kentucky (23-4, 14-2) still had a chance to win, but managed only Kelenna Azubuike's off-balance three-pointer that bounced off the left side of the rim and into Walsh's hands.

Then the celebration began.

Florida (20-7, 12-4) last beat the Wildcats in March 2001. The Gators have come close, losing the last three at home by a combined seven points, but had been unable to get over the hurdle.

The "Big Three" changed that Sunday.

Lee, the team's lone senior who was honored before his final home game, had lost all eight previous meetings against Kentucky. Walsh and Roberson were 0-6.

"It's taken three years for me to win this on my home floor," Roberson said.

Walsh, Roberson and Lee combined for 43 of Florida's 53 points. Walsh and Lee each had 11. Lee added 10 rebounds, two assists, two steals and a blocked shot.

"It was just an exciting victory," said Lee, who also removed his shirt in the postgame revelry. "I would have liked for it to not be so close. It would have been easier if we had won by 50 and gone out with 4 minutes to play and gotten everybody in. But any time you get a win against a Top Five team like Kentucky, as great as their tradition is, it just says a lot about our team."

Missouri 72, No. 7 Kansas 68: Thomas Gardner matched his career best with 25 points and Linas Kleiza had 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Tigers (15-15, 7-9), who had lost four straight to Kansas.

Wayne Simien had 17 points and eight rebounds for the visit-

ing Jayhawks (22-5, 12-4), who were bumped to the second seed in this week's Big 12 tournament behind co-champion Oklahoma. Kansas' Keith Langford had five points in 3 minutes before injuring an ankle he hurt in practice last week. Langford is the Jayhawks' second-leading scorer at 15.1 points.

No. 12 Gonzaga 90, San Diego 74: Adam Morrison had 25 points and a career-high eight assists to lead the Bulldogs (24-4) to the West Coast Conference championship game as they go for their sixth tournament title in seven years.

Floyd Lewis III had 16 points, and Nick Lewis added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Terrors (16-13).

Truex earns Busch win south of the border

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — NASCAR's first surprise journey south of the border finished a lot like those back home, with regulars Martin Truex Jr., Kevin Harvick and Carl Edwards at the front of the pack.

Truex used a planned early pit stop — and took advantage of a lucky yellow flag that shut the door on two pursuers — to hang onto the lead over the final 28 laps of the first points-paying NASCAR race outside the United States in a half century.

Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick finished just over 6 seconds back, second in a third-consecutive Busch Series race after slipping past Carl Edwards on the 78th lap of the 80-lap Telcel-Motorola 200.

Truex made two early pit stops, his last at the 46th lap.

"We wanted to have a full tank of gas with 40 laps to go," Truex said. "The pit stop came seconds before a caution flag came out."

Adrian Fernandez and Boris Said, running in the top five, were caught in the approach to pit road and were penalized for pitting too quickly after the caution period started. They started at the back of pack, dashing their chances to win.

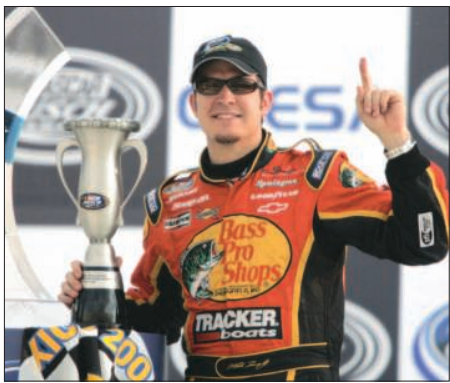
"As soon as we reached pit road and they told me the caution was out, I said, 'Yeah! That's perfect!' We caught a little bit of luck there," Truex said.

Said battled back to fifth and Fernandez to 10th by the end of the race.

Edwards had a remarkable comeback as well. He smashed his main car in practice and blew a replacement car. Yet he managed to qualify ninth and finish third in his backup car.

Reed Sorenson, who entered the race second to Harvick in the season points standing, was running strong before spinning onto the grass on lap 59. Virtually all of the pack passed before he could get back on the track.

The race was a boost for NASCAR's effort to build a new fan base in Mexico, where open-wheel racing has been dominant. Promoters said a healthy 94,229 people turned out on race day following a 38,319 crowd for Saturday's qualifying.



Martin Truex Jr. celebrates after winning the NASCAR series race at the Hermanos Rodriguez race track in Mexico City on Saturday. It was NASCAR's first race in Mexico.

"This could become the marquee event for the series," said Robbie Weiss, NASCAR's chief of international business. But he said no contract had yet been signed for next year.

Ticket prices started at 180 pesos — about \$17 — nearly double the country's median daily wage.

But fans hoping for a hometown stunner had to be satisfied the pole position and early race leadership of the little-known Jorge Goeters, who was making his first Busch Series race.

Goeters led for the first 24 laps, but his first NASCAR pit stop was a disaster — coming in under the green flag and stopping initially at a neighboring pit.

He battled back up to 10th but pulled off the track on the 66th lap with his car spin-

ing smoke.

Fernandez, making his first NASCAR start, had the fastest practice time but a crash in qualifying knocked him to the back of Sunday's grid. He fought back to the lead, but was then penalized to the back again.

Edwards clipped another Mexican star, Michel Jourdain Jr., spinning him into the wall and knocking him out of the race for 10 laps while his crew worked on repairs.

"I was a little overaggressive," Edwards said in a public apology to Jourdain. "I hope I can make it up to him."

Carlos Contreras, the first Mexican to race in a Busch race, was running a steady sixth when his car slowed on the 72nd lap and he pitted.

Weldon wins IRL opener at Homestead

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Dan Weldon celebrated by doing doughnuts in his car and got victory hugs from his crew, but the Englishman didn't want to make too much of his overpowering victory Sunday in the season-opening IRL IndyCar race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

"It's one race into the championship. One race," the smiling Weldon said after dominating the Toyota Indy 300, leading 158 of the 200 laps. "It's meant to be it's meant to be. I just enjoy winning races."

Weldon, part of the powerful four-car Andretti Green Racing team, pulled away from the pack midway through the race and appeared headed to a runaway victory when the race was interrupted by a frightening eight-car crash on lap 159.

The big wreck — the last of several cautions — began moments after a restart when Kosuke Matsuura, trying to pass pole winner Tomas Scheckter on the outside, slid sideways and hit Scheckter.

Before all the crashing and banging ended, the accident also took out Scott Sharp, Bryan Herta, Scott Dixon, Roger Yasukawa, Ed Carpenter and 22-year-old rookie Danica Patrick, making her first IRL start.

Patrick, the only woman in the field, walked into the infield care center but was sent by ambulance to a nearby hospital for observation after being diagnosed with a concussion.

After a long cleanup the green flag waved with 24 laps remaining and Weldon steadily pulled away from a group of cars still in the pulled-two-time IRL champion and defending race winner Sam Hornish Jr., reigning series champion Tony Kanaan, Helio Castroneves and Vitantonio.

The race ended with Weldon's Honda-powered Dallara 3.7 seconds — virtually an entire straightaway on the 1 1/2-mile oval — ahead of a three-wide battle for second.

Kanaan, who completed every lap of every race and finished out of the top five only once on the way to beating teammate Weldon for the 2004 title, was credited with third, just ahead of Castroneves.

Castroneves finished fifth, followed by Darren Manning and IRL newcomer Patrick Carpentier, the last driver on the lead lap.

Ex-Washington coach Neuheisel settles suit for \$4.7M

The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Fired football coach Rick Neuheisel will receive \$4.7 million in a settlement Monday of his lawsuit against the NCAA and the University of Washington.

The deal was announced by Judge Michael Spearman just before closing arguments.

Neuheisel will receive a cash payment of \$2.5 million from NCAA, and the university will forgive a \$1.5 million loan from the school that Neuheisel earlier had asked to pay back. The university also will pay him \$500,000 in cash and \$200,000 in interest.

After his announcement, the judge called attorneys in the case into his chambers. Neuheisel and other principals in the case were not immediately available for comment.

Neuheisel had accused the uni-

versity of wrongfully terminating his contract and the NCAA of encouraging Washington administrators to fire him.

The university had argued that he had signed a contract that allowed for his firing for acts of dishonesty. School officials have said Neuheisel was fired for gambling on an NCAA basketball pool and failing to be forthright about it with NCAA investigators.

Last week, Spearman left open the possibility of declaring a mistrial because the NCAA had failed to provide Neuheisel's legal team with an updated version of its bylaws during discovery. In a statement Monday, the university said it agreed to settle because a mistrial could be declared.

The updated bylaws seem to bolster Neuheisel's argument that NCAA investigators acted improperly when they failed to tell him in advance that they planned to question him regarding his gambling.

Warner agrees with Cardinals

PHOENIX — Kurt Warner agreed Sunday to a one-year, \$4

million contract with the Arizona Cardinals, the two-time MVP's third term in three seasons.

The 33-year-old quarterback, who lost his starting job with the Giants to rookie Eli Manning last season, is to sign the contract and appear at a news conference in Arizona on Tuesday.

Warner was a three-time Pro Bowl selection with the St. Louis Rams. He led the Rams to the Super Bowl in 1999 and 2001, beating Tennessee and winning MVP in the 2000 game.

But after losing the starting job to Marc Bulger in St. Louis, he signed a one-year deal with the Giants before last season.

Warner visited the Cardinals on Thursday, for a meeting with Cardinals coach Dennis Green made it clear that the opportunity for him is there. The Cardinals started most of last season, Josh McCown, will be back next season.

RB Johnson signs with Bengals

CINCINNATI — Running back Rudi Johnson signed a one-year, \$6.3 million contract Monday to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Johnson, who set a Bengals single-season rushing record last season with 1,454 yards, is still free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team, and he says he wants to do that.

Johnson became a free agent March 2, but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they could retain him by matching any offer sheet he signed with another team.

The deal allows the Bengals to keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice in 2004, will develop into their running back of the future. Perry was sidelined much of his rookie season by injuries.

Sullivan finalists announced

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Olympic gold medalists Michael Phelps, Carly Patterson and Paul Hamm, and Heisman Trophy win-

ner Matt Leinart were among the 10 finalists announced Monday for the Sullivan Award, given to the nation's top amateur athlete.

Phelps, last year's Sullivan winner, captured six golds and two bronzes at the Athens Olympics, making him the record for most medals won at a single Games.

Patterson, of Allen, Texas, was the first U.S. woman to win the Olympic all-around title since Nancy Lou Retton. She also won silver medals in the team competition and on the balance beam, and was the USOC's SportsWoman of the Year.

Hamm was the first U.S. man to win the Olympic all-around.

Leinart led Southern California to the national season and its second straight national title.

Other finalists are: Jeremy Warner (track) Elisha Au (karate); Natalie Coughlin (swimming); Steven Lopez (track-and-field); Chad Sanderson (wrestling); and Andrew Ward (boxing). Online voting on the USA Today Web site will be deterred by the winner, who will be announced April 13 in New York.

Tiger outduels Lefty, reclaims No. 1

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Tiger Woods returned to No. 1 in the world Sunday.

Phil Mickelson made him earn it.

In a titanic battle on the Blue Monster before a sellout crowd, Woods made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th, then held his breath as the resilient Mickelson nearly chipped in for birdie on the final hole. After four hours of dramatic shifts in momentum and thunderous cheers, Woods ended a spectacular duel with a 6-foot par putt.

That gave him a 6-under par for a one-shot victory in the Ford Championship at Doral, putting Woods back at No. 1 in the world rankings for the first time since September.

"What a day," Woods said in utter relief. "If you're not nervous on a day like this, you're not alive."

Mickelson was alive and kicking.

After Woods carried a 3-wood some 290 yards to set up an eagle on the par-5 12th and take the lead for the first time, Lefty answered with back-to-back birdies. Needing a birdie to force a playoff, and possibly win on the 18th, his 30-foot chip was good until the final inch, when it tailed to the right and caught the lip.

"I'm a little ticked at myself for not getting it done," Mickelson said after his 69. "I knew I was playing well enough to win. I believe I should have won, certainly could have won. And I just hope I have another shot soon. I hope that the next time we play, we both play well again and get in the last group. Because this was fun competing against him."

Woods, who earned \$990,000 for his second victory of the year, finished at 24-under 264 to break by one shot the tournament record at Doral, previously held by Jim Furyk (2000) and Greg Norman (1993). This is the sixth PGA Tour event in which Woods has at least a share of the 72-hole record.

Vijay Singh, who had been No. 1 the last 26 weeks after beating Woods in a Labor Day duel outside Boston, closed with a 66 to finish third, five shots behind, along with Zach Johnson (67).



Phil Mickelson flinches in agony after he just missed a chip shot on No. 18 that would have tied Tiger Woods for the lead in the Ford Championship at Doral. Woods, right, pumps his fist on the 17th green after making a 30-foot birdie putt to take the lead for good during the final round.



AP photos

Mickelson's streak of 10 consecutive rounds atop the leaderboard ended, but not without a gutsy fight.

Most players would have buckled when Woods surged into the lead with a 25-foot eagle putt, followed by an uppercut full of emotion.

Mickelson came right back at him. He birdied the next two holes to regain a share of the lead, and was poised to beat Woods until missing two short putts — a 10-footer for birdie on No. 15 and a 5-footer for par on No. 16 after Woods had failed to get up and down from the bunker.

It was the first time in a combined 67 holes either of them had made a bogey. They performed at such a high level that each made 27 birdies this week, a career high for both.

"We both played really good golf," Woods said.

And with some 35,000 fans already exhausted of emotion, Mickelson kept them on their toes with a 30-foot chip that briefly dipped into the cup on the 18th before spinning out.

"From where I was looking, that thing was center cut," Woods said.

It was only the third time Woods and Mickelson have played against each other in the final round, and Woods has won them all.

The other two times were the 2001 Masters, in which Woods had a one-shot lead, and the 2003 Buick Invitational, in which Woods was two ahead of Mickelson.

It might not be the last time. Woods and Mickelson have two victories each this year, and are clearly playing better than anyone as big tournaments loom, including the start of the majors.

"With all the feelings I have about losing today, this was probably the best thing that could have happened to me heading into the majors," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win today and when I didn't, it was a real slap in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to salvage a couple more shots."

"When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready."

Both players had their chances. Woods missed back-to-back birdie putts from 8 feet early in the round, but a pivotal hole came at the par-3 fourth.

Mickelson stuffed his tee shot into 5 feet, while Woods' tee shot bounded off the side of the hill and was saved by thick rough from going into the water. He chipped some 10 feet by, and it looked as though Mickelson would double his lead. Instead,

Woods made a tricky par putt and Mickelson missed his birdie try.

One hole later, Woods nicked the flag with his approach and made a 4-foot birdie. They matched shots the rest of the way, both of them twice missing birdie putts inside 12 feet.

The gallery soaked up every shot.

Every patch of grass was covered by fans from tee to green. They stood as many as six-deep around the shots, lined every putt to the next tee box cheering as both walked by, the kind of atmosphere rarely seen except in major championships.

"It was electric," Woods said. "It was definitely bipartisan out there. You could hear Phil's fans, you could hear Tiger's fans. They were both yelling at the top of their lungs. When we got to the tee box, my ears were ringing."

Mickelson and Woods kept them in suspense to the very end.

Sorenstam picks up where she left off — on top of LPGA

BY JASON LANGE

The Associated Press

HUIXQUILUCAN, Mexico — Annika Sorenstam made another big statement to her LPGA Tour rivals in her first tournament of the year.

"I wanted everybody to know that I'm ready to play and ready to go," Sorenstam said Sunday after rallying to win the inaugural MasterCard Classic.

Also playing for the first time since filing for divorce from David Eash, the Swedish star shot a 4-under 68 in windy conditions for a three-stroke victory.

"I've been in this position before, and what I've learned over the years is that

you've just got to play your own game," said Sorenstam, three strokes behind leader Cristie Kerr after the second round.

Sorenstam finished at 7-under 209 and earned \$180,000 for her 57th LPGA Tour title. Last year, she won eight tour events — including the season-ending ADT Championship in her last start in November — and two international titles.

On Sunday, Sorenstam had eight birdies — five in a row on Nos. 2-6 — to offset four bogeys on the high-altitude Bosque Real Country Club course.

Karrie Webb shot a 70 to finish second in the first LPGA Tour event in Mexico since 1975.

"I struggled a little bit with feeling comfortable out there today," Webb said.

Kerr stumbled with a 75 to match South Korea's Hee-Won Han (71) at 3 under, and Mexican star Lorena Ochoa (68) rallied to finish fifth at 2 under. Rookie Padia Creamer (68) and Michelle Reidman (72) were 1 under.

The wind kicked up to 20 mph in the afternoon, complicating long approaches on the course overlooking the 7,400-foot-high Mexican capital.

"The wind was gusting tremendously," Sorenstam said.

After her run of five straight birdies, Sorenstam bogeyed three consecutive holes. On No. 9, she hit over the green and into a water hazard.

"I was trying to play aggressive," she said. "I hit a 5-iron and it just seems like I hit it a 5-iron and it went way too far."

But she had little trouble turning things around, adding three birdies on the back nine en route to her 18th career comeback victory.

Hundreds of fans followed Ochoa throughout the tournament, and she said the extra attention made things tough some of the time.

But the 23-year-old star said she was happy that her strong performance Sunday was good enough for a fifth-place finish. She had seven birdies, a bogey and a double bogey on 16, where she said she "misjudged the wind."

SPORTS

The tides of March

Two top four teams lose finale by 1 point, others escape in wild finishes

By JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

The end of Illinois' run at a perfect season turned out to be just one part of a wild Sunday for the top four teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll.

Just hours after Ohio State handed the top-ranked Illini their first loss of the season, No. 3 Kentucky lost by the same one-point margin to Florida.

It took a game-closing 11-0 run for No. 2 North Carolina to beat No. 6 Duke by two points, and then No. 4 Wake Forest needed a buzzer-beater from Chris Paul for a 55-53 victory over North Carolina State.

The top four went 2-2 just days before the conference tournaments get under way.

Illinois (29-1, 15-1 Big Ten) was trying to become the second team in two seasons to get to "Championship Week" without a loss.

Ohio State reserve Matt Sylvest-er hit a three-pointer with 5.1 seconds left to give the Buckeyes the 65-64 lead and the Illini's Roger Powell Jr. wasn't close with a three-point attempt at the buzzer.

"Everyone says a loss will help. We'll find out," Illini's coach Bruce Weber said. "We'll learn from it and move on. This next stretch is the most important of the year and that's what people are going to remember."

Saint Joseph's was 27-0 last season when the top-ranked Hawks lost to Xavier by 20 points in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 tournament. The loss didn't derail their season by any means as they reached the round of eight in the NCAA tournament, losing to Oklahoma State in a thriller one game short of the Final Four.

Stanford also made a run at a perfect season last season, winning its first 26 before losing to Washington in the last game before the Pac-10 tournament. The Cardinal won the conference tournament, then were upset by Ala-

Sunday's scoreboard

Ohio State	65
No. 1 Illinois	64
No. 2 North Carolina	75
No. 6 Duke	73
Florida	53
No. 3 Kentucky	52
No. 4 Wake Forest	55
North Carolina State	53
Missouri	72
No. 7 Kansas	68

bama in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Xavier's coach in that game against Saint Joe's was Thad Matta. He moved on to Ohio State this season and on Sunday he ended another run at perfection.

"I'd like to be the other team just one time," Matta said, laughing. "I'm living for the day I'm the No. 1 team and someone else is trying to do it to us."

The last team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss was UNLV in 1991. The Runnin Rebels lost to Duke in the Final Four.

The last team to go undefeated in a season was Indiana in 1976.

Illinois is still the top seed in this week's Big Ten tournament and it's hard to imagine the Illini losing the No. 1 ranking or a No. 1 seed in the NCAA's field of 65.

"I'd rather lose now than three weeks from now," Weber said.

North Carolina freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke.

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds to record his eighth straight double-double for North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), which won its first Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship since 1993, the same year of its most recent national title.

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak to Kentucky as An-



AP photos

Clockwise from top: North Carolina's Sean May (right) shoots over Duke's Shelden Williams during the Tar Heels' victory. North Carolina scored the last 11 points and won the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title; Florida's Matt Walsh (right) hugs teammate Tarean Green after the Gators beat No. 3 Kentucky for the first time since March 2001; and Ohio State's J.J. Sullinger celebrates the Buckeyes' victory over Illinois Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. It was the top-ranked Illini's first loss of the season.

thony Roberson scored 21 points, including two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

The Wildcats (23-4, 14-2 Southeastern Conference) had a chance to win it, but Kellenia Azubuike's three-pointer just before the buzzer bounced off the left

side of the rim.

Paul went the length of the court in 4 seconds and hit the winner from about 12 feet for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3), who finished second to North Carolina in the ACC.

There is no record of the top

three teams all losing on the same day, although they have all lost in the same week several times.

The last time it happened was in November 2003 when the top four — Connecticut, Duke, Michigan State and Arizona — all went down.

